

HOME NEWS

Judges regard doubts on social reports as attack on impartiality

Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Judges are being asked their views about an issue that involves one of the most important principles in criminal justice: the accused is regarded as innocent until proved guilty. The issue is whether social inquiry reports by probation officers should be withheld until accused concerned is found guilty.

It arose first earlier this year at the annual conference of the National Association of Probation Officers. Members passed a resolution saying that the social inquiry reports were relevant only to the court's sentencing function. It called on members of the service to retain reports in all cases until guilt had been established. Judges have interpreted the resolution as an attack on their impartiality. Among the papers tabled to a judge before the trial is a copy of police ante-ants, what probation officers and in most cases the social inquiry report.

Probation officers ask: Is it not better if all evidence of prejudice was avoided by withholding from the judge the social inquiry report until the jury has reached its verdict?

They say that if a judge knew a man appearing before him had previous convictions for the same sort of offence, he would be less than human if he did not suspect that the man could have done it again. Yet the man is presumed innocent until he is proved guilty, and justice must be seen to be done.

An exploratory meeting, described as "constructive", was held in October between representatives of the national association, chief probation officers, the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department. A further meeting is to take place when the views of the judges have been obtained.

The association is anxious to preserve and develop good relations with the courts. Our Legal Correspondent writes: The criticism by the probation officers is seen by judges and lawyers as being misconceived.

They point out that a judge does not himself decide on the innocence or guilt of a defendant. Where there is a plea of not guilty the verdict is left to the jury. The judge's function is to sum up the case to the jury. During this summing up he is not entitled to mention anything which was not given in formal evidence. There is thus no danger of what is in the social inquiry report being communicated to the jury.

Law Society opposes wider bailiff power

By Our Legal Correspondent

The Law Society has come out against a government proposal that judgments for debt in the High Court should be enforced by the same procedure as that used in the county courts.

In a memorandum to Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, the Law Society says that the High Court enforcement procedure, which uses officers of the sheriff of the county of residence to attach goods, is quick and efficient.

By contrast, the service provided by the bailiffs who enforced county court judgments was unsatisfactory. County court bailiffs in general had little or no commercial experience and were not equipped to challenge the claims of the persistent, "professional" debtors.

Bailiffs often reported that the debtor did not own goods when later investigation has shown this to be incorrect. They accepted without further inquiry statements by a debtor's wife that her husband had left his house and had no goods there.

In the county court the process of enforcement tends to be in fact done, encourage debtors to defer payment, to seek ways and means of avoiding payment altogether", the memorandum says.

In brief

Muslims protest at TV show

About two thousand Muslims from Yorkshire and Lancashire yesterday took part in a protest march in Bradford over the Father Brown television programme. They said the prophet Muhammad was defamed when he was referred to as "a dirty old humbug" in the episode on November 21.

Football arrests

Thirty-five youths and two teenage girls were arrested at the football match between Ipswich Town and Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, the largest number of arrests at an Ipswich game. The youths face charges under the Public Order Act.

Quick handling

Passengers on British Airways domestic flights at Heathrow handled their own baggage yesterday because of a strike by loaders. General opinion was that baggage was reaching the terminal quicker than before the strike.

View from the shops

Part of the Roman wall in Lincoln is to be incorporated in a new shopping centre. Shoppers will be able to view archaeological treasures from a gallery.

Boy in M1 death fall

A boy aged four, died yesterday after falling out of his mother's car on the M1 near Hemel Hempstead. He was run over by a following car and died in hospital.

Mother dies in fire

A woman died and her son and mother were badly hurt in a fire at a council maisonette in Lee Green, south London, yesterday. The dead woman was Mrs Sylvia Hampton.

Man shot in raid

Two armed men stole £3,989 from a Swindon milk depot late on Saturday after shooting and wounding one man and locking other staff in a vault.

Blood sold to pay for trip

An English woman sold her own blood by the pint to help her on an overland trip she booked to India with a Midlands travel firm which collapsed. Miss Marianne Le-Blond, 23, of Raddington Lane, Wilford, Nottinghamshire, who was booked with the Nottingham-based Amano Overland Travel, said she used the blood money to pay for food and hotel fees.

She said she received £3.50 for a pint of blood in Istanbul and £2 in Tehran. When the tour party ran out of money in Calcutta, the British Embassy staff and her family gave her financial assistance on the homeward journey.

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ing begins at Hill's the violin-makers, who are leaving London for Missenden, Buckinghamshire, after more than two centuries in the End.

ware, romantics, the crofting way of life

antics are becoming an obsession. Too many people brood about lifting bridge on the world and themselves from their ickgardens apply to the union for crofts, the Highlands, protected from laws and offering a country life. demand is running at a thousand inquiries at the headquarters in ss and as the surround-look in Britain becomes leak and the world news honny so the pressure to increase. have to protect people themselves, because they idea about the realities ting. It is becoming ussingly popular". Mr Shaw Grant, chairman of mission, declared. A application was from a to know all about apples uld like to have grown an orchard on Shetland. e who thinks that was idea should understand e about as feasible as grapes at the North of even the most deely

tinted spectacles can disguise the truth that for much of the winter Shetland is a dark, storm-lashed land and clear days have the rare excellence of fine jewels. Even summer time may be bitter. The winds are strong, the land too bare and the soil too sour for the most tenacious apple trees. For people, stoicism is more necessary than a romantic hope of forming a new society.

No one may acquire croftland without the approval of the commission and to protect the people already living there the commission closely examines the status of those who try to buy their way into crofts. A croft sold as a second home means there are fewer people to support a bus service, a doctor or a school and the community takes one step farther towards extinction.

Crofters have formed a basic thread of Highlands life for centuries. Some 45,000 people are supported on about 18,000 crofts in the Highlands and Islands. Rents are low and income varies according to what the crofter does. Recently the commission noted

Regional report

Ronald Faux
Inverness

an encouraging drift back to the Highlands of the children from crofting families.

We have had a lot of evidence that young people with a crofting background are returning home because of the opportunities of work associated with North Sea oil development", Mr Grant says. This had shown in applications to subdivide crofts where a crofter wished to provide a home for his returned son. Although the crofting areas may be well separated from towns and cities, they are not divorced from the effects of inflation. Distance adds an edge to rising prices and the commission is pressing the government to give the crofters more protection. In many areas this year's harvest was disastrous,

leaving many crofting farmers with insufficient home-grown foodstuffs to winter their animals. Because of poor market prices crofters, particularly in Argyll, Caithness, Inverness, the Outer Isles and the Ross and Cromarty mainland, will be carrying up to 40 per cent extra young stock this winter.

Because of the reduced quality and quantity of home-grown fodder and the larger numbers of stock, crofters are having to buy even more fodder at much inflated prices. To a true crofter who is self-employed and earning his entire income from small-scale farming this is serious.

The Highlands Board recently questioned a number of bank managers in the North. Almost all said they had been approached by farmers for an extension of overdrafts to pay for wintering stock. More than half the managers said there was a danger that some farming clients would have liquidity problems "with which we should be unable to assist". Either the crofters or their animals are in for a lean winter. Romantics beware.

st children read about comics a week

Devlin
on Correspondent

y all of the 9,700,000 in Britain between the five and 15 read at least one comic a week, according to a survey carried out by the branch of the Inter-Publishing Corporation, and Dandy which head it "top 10" have higher on than *The Times* and *Adrian*.

Jeffrey Barratt, head of the media research department, said that about nine million children read one of four comic magazines a week and *Dandy* of 400,000. It estimated that each copy by three or four children are published by Thomson, IPC's main comic publisher. A research follows a survey of last week by the Council, which showed the decline in book reading in children between the 10 and 14. The survey of children found that an one-third of children never read a book in their time and children reading half as many as in 1938.

Dr Glenn Smith, head of children's Research Unit, an

independent organization based in London, disagreed with the Schools Council's comment that the amount of verbal comment in comics had declined.

He said: "Comics are very good for a child's language development. A lot of people have stereotyped ideas about comics as full of colloquialisms like bang and whoomp. It is arguable that some of these words are undesirable but they also have words and sentence formations which a child might not meet at school until he or she was much older."

He said that comics were more immediate to children than books, more sophisticated and provided quicker action. The "top ten" list of the 45 comics on the market for children aged five to 12 years is: *Beano* (500,000 circulation); *Dandy* (400,000); *Bunty* (262,000); *Victor* (261,000); *Tammy* (251,000); *Beezer* (250,000); *Topper* (220,000); *Diana* (215,000); *Look-In* (213,000); *Whizzer and Chips* (198,000).

Last March IPC started *Inty* and *Whoopie* which now have circulations of 340,000 and 268,000 respectively. But Mr Barratt said they had been heavily promoted and it was too early to say what their eventual circulations would be.

Worcester supermarket plan called 'disaster'

From Our Correspondent
Worcester

A big new supermarket on the edge of Worcester would cause commercial disaster for city centre traders and would increase traffic, a public inquiry will be told by local planning officials tomorrow. The store, proposed by J. Sainsbury Ltd., would have a total floor area of 49,400ft, almost as much as the combined grocery space of all existing supermarkets and big stores in the city centre.

The planning application was referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment as a departure from the Worcester development plan. It is being opposed by the city council, Hereford and Worcester County Council and Droitwich Town Development Committee.

Mr A. G. Arnold, Worcester planning officer, reports that the store might take away 65 per cent of the food trade in the city's catchment area and lead to "a process of decay" in city centre business.

It would encourage car shopping and increase traffic in Worcester, which with no ring road and only one river bridge is vulnerable to cross-town traffic. The county council's policy is that "hypermarkets or other

large isolated shopping centres should be resisted because of disastrous effects they would have on both the financial and environmental aspects of the existing centres."

Sainsbury said two similar supermarkets, opened in the past three years at Bretton, Flintshire, and Langney, near Eastbourne, had proved quite acceptable to the local communities. The company opened a third outside Cambridge earlier this month. All three were opposed at local inquiries.

Lakes road plea: Plans for a dual carriageway alongside Bassingbourn Lake in the Lake District National Park should be abandoned by the Government for the twenty-fifth anniversary today of the National Parks Act, countryside organisations suggested yesterday (a Staff Reporter writes).

The Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Ramblers' Association said the scheme should be reconsidered because of new factors.

They were the Government's new design standards allowing for higher traffic flows; the recent energy-saving speed limit; and the Sandford recommendation that environmental standards should come first in national park road plans.

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HOME NEWS

Cambridge rapist claims fifth victim

From Our Correspondent
Cambridge

A rapist being hunted by a police squad in Cambridge claimed his fifth victim in eight weeks early yesterday. An American telephoneist, aged 20, was attacked in her flat.

Her arms were bound and she was gagged by her attacker. Her arms were slashed with a knife during a struggle.

Det Supt Bernard Hotson, who heads the anti-rape squad set up by Cambridgeshire police after the first attack on October 18, said: "The man responsible for these attacks is a dangerous maniac who will strike again and again until we catch him. We are treating the attacks with all the seriousness of a murder inquiry."

All the victims have been women in their early twenties. One trainee teacher at Homerton College was dragged from a sound-proofed music room in the college and raped in the grounds, but the others have been attacked in their flats or bed-sitting rooms.

Until yesterday the attacker had prevented his victims from seeing his face. But yesterday's victim caught a glimpse of him. She described him as about 25 years old, 5ft 3in tall, softly-spoken, wearing a beard, which may be false, a bottle-green jumper and dark trousers.

Mr Hotson again warned single women to make sure that their doors and windows are locked when they are alone. The police are worried about the ease with which the attacker is able to enter flats in Cambridge, in spite of police warnings.

The warnings have been directed not only at individual women in flats but also at Cambridge women's colleges and Cambridgeshire Technical College.

Fishermen rescued

Five men were rescued from a small fishing boat which sank about eight miles south-east of the Tyne early yesterday.



Seasonal shopping at Alice Holt, a Forestry Commission plantation near Farnham, Surrey.

Tinnners' parliament plans coinage

From Our Correspondent
St Austell

Cornwall's Stannary Parliament, revived this year after a lapse of 222 years, has authorized the issue within the next few weeks of a Cornish currency in banknotes which will not carry a picture of the Queen.

Mr Frederick Trull, clerk to the Stannary, has set up a Cornish National Fund to issue promissory notes in five shillings, ten shillings, £1 and £5 denominations.

He said yesterday that the main demand was likely to be as collectors' items but there was no reason why it should not become the main currency in Cornwall. "I plan to back the currency with gold and silver bought with the money paid for the new notes and deposited in a St Austell bank," he said. The Stannary Parliament has postponed its seizure of Crown

property in St Austell planned for today. The members had agreed to seize an unspecified building in order to force the Crown to recognize the validity of the ancient tinnners' parliament.

Yesterday Mr Brian Hambley, Lord Protector of the Stannaries, said that the Home Secretary in rejecting the Stannary Parliament's petition to the Queen for recognition had by implication accepted Cornwall's right to a parliament.

The Home Office said the present Stannary Parliament could not be considered valid because it was not elected by the mayor and councillors of the boroughs of Truro, Helston, Lostwithiel and Launceston, as prescribed under the charter.

Mr Hambley said the parliament had always been elected by the privileged tinnners. It was the Cornish Convocation that

was elected as the Home Secretary described. "That is just what we have tried to do, but the Duchy of Cornwall told the four boroughs to have nothing to do with us," he said.

"Now we are asking the four boroughs to approve the selection of six stannators from each of their areas and we have decided to postpone the seizure of Crown property."

The matter had become very urgent. By accepting one part of the Charter of Pardon the Home Secretary must accept the whole. That meant that in Westminster law passed in the past 220 years was valid in Cornwall because it had not received the assent of the Cornish Convocation.

"The implications of that are so drastic that we feel some thing should be done immediately to avoid political anarchy," Mr Hambley said.

Arbitration move by Oxford staff rejected

Oxford University is refusing to support a joint reference to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to settle a pay dispute involving six hundred members of its clerical and administrative staff.

The university's governing body has told the joint staff committees that it will not commit itself to accepting the results of arbitration. The university says it will implement its offer of a 2½ per cent increase, but the staff are seeking another 12 per cent in line with the National and Local Government Officers' Association pay scales in local authorities.

Sixth-formers to undertake special research

About 2,000 sixth-formers and technical college students will volunteer next year to carry out investigations outside their normal studies.

The scheme, begun by the Associated Examining Board, has produced research work of a quality that has surprised the examiners. One engineering student who did research into hops produced a report which was a top-growing expert described as one of the finest on the subject he had ever read.

The aim of the examination, known as the alternative Ordinary level examination in general studies, is to safeguard sixth-formers against narrow specialisation.

Left-handedness, accidents on motor cycles, discrimination against women, and the social effects of a coalmine closure are among the subjects approved. The board has excluded such topics as a study of good and evil because it was considered vague and far beyond the individual's range, and drug addiction, which might bring researchers into contact with undesirable influences.

The board said yesterday that more than 300 took part in a pilot scheme in 1969.

Botterill takes lead in chess contest

From a Chess Correspondent
Llangennech, Dyfed

After a quiet start to the play-off tournament for the British Chess Championship at Llangennech, Dyfed, a clear leader emerged in the second round yesterday when G. S. Botterill outplayed A. J. Mestel and broke through with a sudden mating attack to win in 31 moves. Botterill now has 1½ points from two games and is followed by M. J. Haggerth, M. F. Stean and A. H. Williams, with 1 out of 2; R. Bellin and W. R. Harrison, with 0 out of 1; and Mestel, with 0 out of 2. Results: Round 1: Stean v Haggerth, 1-0; Bellin v Harrison, 1-0; Botterill v Mestel, 1-0. Round 2: Harrison v Stean, 1-0; Haggerth v Botterill, 1-0; Mestel v Bellin, 1-0. Botterill: Modern defence; black won.

Mr Oestricher, whose German background has left him with perfect command of the language, was permitted to interview, among others, the four surviving members of the gang's "hard core", including Herr Andreas Baader and Frau Meinhof. All four are on hunger strike in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, where he saw them.

Mr Oestricher's assessment of the conditions in which the four are being detained pending their trial in the spring differs from that of M. Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher, who was granted an hour's interview

Mr Foot faces driving summons

Magistrates at Brill, Buckinghamshire, are to deal today with a summons alleging careless driving against Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment. This follows a "damage only" accident on October 11 when Mr Foot was reversing his car from the forecourt of a public house at Kingswood.

His car was not involved in the collision, affecting three other vehicles.

Yacht squadron cannon stolen

An ancient Chinese cannon which has adorned the battlements of the famous Royal Yacht Squadron headquarters, Cowes Castle, Isle of Wight, for 63 years, vanished before dawn yesterday.

It is at least 400 years old and a squadron member said it was so rare that they regarded it as beyond price. It was captured during the Chinese wars at the turn of the century.

WEST EUROPE

M Chirac takes over party in defiance of Gaullist 'barons'

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 15

M Chirac, the Prime Minister, in a surprise move yesterday, asserted his control over the Gaullist party. At a hastily summoned meeting of the central committee of 105 members, he got himself elected secretary-general by a substantial majority.

He succeeds M Alexandre Sanguinetti, who has been increasingly under fire from Gaullist "barons" and militants for being too conciliatory towards President Giscard d'Estaing.

The election of M Chirac did not go unchallenged. M Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister, described the resignation of M Sanguinetti, who only two days ago had insisted on his intention of standing for the post again, as a "masquerade"; and M Chirac's election as a coup de force.

Other Gaullist "barons" such as M Couve de Murville, M Debré, and M Peyrefitte, disapproved of what they described as the Prime Minister's high-handed tactics. A former minister, M Robert Boulin, resigned from the party on the grounds that the election was "contrary to the democratic rules".

A meeting of the party's national council, which includes some 600 activists and provincial delegates, was delayed for several hours while the assistants deliberated behind closed doors.

When the Prime Minister finally appeared before the national council, shouts of "vive Chirac" and "it's the end of the barons" from his supporters mingled with angry cries of "putsch" and "treason".

M Sanguinetti explained that he had resigned because it had become impossible to lead the movement, divided by "too many personal ambitions, too many factions, plans, trends and deviances".

M Chirac, sensing the opposition to his storm tactics, spoke with the cold determination of one who is not to be deterred

from a crucial gamble, similar to the one he made six months ago when he opposed the candidature of M Chaban-Delmas for the presidency.

"No one can claim seriously today that the policy of the Government is not inspired by the principles of Gaullism", he said.

"I accepted the proposal of M Sanguinetti because I needed today, and in coming weeks, to be indissolubly linked to our movement. I felt I have the duty, if I wanted to carry out the business of government in the spirit I have always defended, to obtain the assistance of the whole movement."

This morning, after M Chaban-Delmas had said he would reconsider his membership of the party if the secretary-general were not democratically elected at the next party congress in the spring, M Chirac issued a solemn appeal to all activists to close ranks and work together to resume the action which has enabled us since 1958 to work for the benefit of France."

M Chirac's decision to take control of the party will not put an end to the discussion within the ranks, which has been a factor since the head of state ceased to be one of its members. Other leading Gaullists may resign, but the Prime Minister seems certain of holding the vast majority.

According to the latest opinion poll, the number of persons discontented with the policy of President Giscard d'Estaing now exceeds those contented.

The Public Affairs poll published by *L'Express* shows 47 per cent dissatisfied, 45 per cent satisfied, and 8 per cent without an opinion. These figures represent a drop of 3 per cent in M Giscard d'Estaing's popularity since October.

On the other hand, 49 per cent still have confidence in the President for the future, as against 40 per cent who do not, and 11 per cent who do not know.

Whitlam trade talks to begin in Brussels

From David Cross
Brussels, Dec 15

In recognition of Australia's changed relations with Europe since Britain became a member of the EEC, Mr Gough Whitlam, the Prime Minister, today met Brussels the first port of call of his five-week tour of European capitals. In the past, Australia leaders customarily have travelled to London first.

Mr Whitlam will spend the next three days in Brussels, discussing Australia's trade relations with the Community and Belgium. Talks have been arranged with M Franco Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission, Sir Christopher Soames, the Commissioner for External Relations, and Mr Thiedemann, the Belgian Prime Minister.

The discussions are expected to centre on Australia's vast reserves of natural mineral and fuel resources, which include uranium and coal. A group of EEC nuclear experts recently visited Australia to sound out the possibilities of buying uranium, perhaps in exchange for technical expertise.

Also, Mr Whitlam will probably want to discuss the Community's best import bar, which was introduced without warning or consultations with its trading partners. He points out that the Community cannot act in isolation and its trading attitudes seriously affect other parts of the world.

The EEC is Australia's second largest market for exports, the largest source of imports, but the changing pattern of world trade has seen such a Britain's share of Australia's total exports has fallen from 19 per cent in 1958-59 to less than 9 per cent now.

After his talks in Brussels, Whitlam travels to London Thursday for meetings with Wilson and other ministers. His first official visit to Europe will cover Paris, Moscow, Rostov, Athens, Belgrade and Valje.

Gen Haig takes over as Nato chief in Europe

Casteau, Belgium, Dec 15—

General Alexander Haig, the former White House chief of staff, who took over today as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, asked to be judged by his performance and said he saw no reason why his connection with Watergate should interfere.

Before the takeover ceremony at allied headquarters, the general, who assumed command of American troops in Europe last month, told reporters: "I feel qualified for this job. I am enthusiastic and I am prepared to give it my best. I would like to be judged by my performance and not by any internal inhibitions of any of you may have in respect of how I got here."

Triumph for Mme Veil on French Abortion Bill

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 15

Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health, again earned her reputation as "the only man in the Government" by obtaining a surprisingly large majority for her Abortion Bill in the Senate early on Sunday morning. It was expected to have a much rougher passage there than in the National Assembly two weeks ago.

The Bill was carried by 181 votes to 91. The Communists and Socialists supported it, but the Government's own majority was divided with only about half the Gaullists, Independent Republicans and the Centre voting in favour.

The unexpected success was

due once again to the courage and tenacity of Mme Veil, to whom opponents supporters all paid homage.

Mr Jean Lecanuet, the Minister of Justice, whose *Deuxième Centre* party, the former Christian Democrats of the Fourth Republic, has been divided profoundly by the Bill, also helped to the day by persuading his followers that the old law of punishing abortion by imprisonment had been flouted for the past few years.

The senators passed a number of amendments, including one which provides that a hospital or clinic should number of abortions or other surgical operations.

Amnesty chief differs with M Sartre on 'torture'

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Dec 15

The Rev Paul Oestricher, chairman of the British section of Amnesty International, confirmed today that he recently visited three West German prisons in which alleged members of the "Baader-Meinhof" group of urban guerrillas are detained.

His visit was a private one. Although the international committee of Amnesty knew about it, he was not acting on its behalf, still less for the West German branch of the organization.

He was responding to an appeal from relatives of some of the prisoners, and took care, he said, to adopt a "neutral" posture.

Mr Oestricher, whose German background has left him with perfect command of the language, was permitted to interview, among others, the four surviving members of the gang's "hard core", including Herr Andreas Baader and Frau Meinhof. All four are on hunger strike in Stammheim prison, Stuttgart, where he saw them.

Mr Oestricher's assessment of the conditions in which the four are being detained pending their trial in the spring differs from that of M. Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher, who was granted an hour's interview

with Herr Baader earlier this month.

M Sartre used the word "torture" to describe Herr Baader's treatment. Mr Oestricher said that the overall detention conditions in West Germany were no better or worse than in any comparable country and did not generally justify complaint. He took the view that the four alleged leaders were being subjected to an unnecessary degree of social isolation within the prison.

This, he felt, lay at the heart of the hunger strike by 31 alleged members of the gang in five prisons, including Stammheim. A month ago the fifth alleged member of the hard core died in prison after eight weeks of fasting. His death was followed by a number of "revenge" acts of terrorism, including the murder of a West Berlin judge.

Mr Oestricher said the hunger strikers wanted the four Stammheim prisoners to be granted treatment equal to that enjoyed by the rest of the suspects.

The four main suspects appreciated that the nature of the crimes of which they are accused made it inevitable that they would be subject to specially rigorous security. They have been charged with five murders, 54 attempted murders and some other offences including political bombings. But they objected to their isolation.

Italian news at entertainment hit by strikes

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Dec 15

Strikes in the journalistic, entertainment worlds of theatres and cinemas have prevented the issue of papers and news bulletins the second day.

The complete news blackout ends tonight. The journalists' leaders have called another two days of strike, week and the printers' quite independently, have for a 24-hour strike beginning tomorrow night.

\$1.2m church for African liberation group

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Dec 15

The World Council of Churches says that its church aid commission given African liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau (about \$521,000) in African medical and educational over the past three years.

The programme, set from grants made through Council's special fund to bar racism, is almost completely covered by donations from churches and governments in Africa, the West Indies, America, Europe and Zealand.

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Consult your dialling instruction booklet, or seek assistance now.

Your booklet will tell you what direct dialling facilities are available from your telephone.

It lists the dialling codes of United Kingdom exchanges and the main exchanges abroad which can be dialled by you direct.

On Christmas Day (New Year's Day in Scotland) there will be fewer operators on duty, so please make any directory enquiries now.

If your telephone has International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facilities consult the international operator now for dialling codes not shown in your dialling booklet.

Since the beginning of this month ISD subscribers have been able to dial direct to these additional countries, using the Country codes shown:

Australia (010 61)
Hong Kong (010 852)
Israel (010 972)
New Zealand (010 64)
Singapore (010 65)
South Africa (010 27).



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YOUR CHRISTMAS TELEGRAMS

On Christmas Day and Boxing Day (Christmas Day and New Year's Day in Scotland) all inland telegram deliveries by hand, telephone or telex will be suspended.

Special arrangements will be made to deliver 'life and death' messages.

Telegrams will continue to be accepted by telephone throughout the period.

Outside Scotland normal Bank Holiday deliveries will apply on January 1. In Scotland Sunday delivery arrangements will apply on Boxing Day and January 2.

هكذا من الأصل

Egypt's call for 50-year ban on Israel immigration will be diplomatic exercise' for peace

By Paul Martin
Jerusalem, Dec 15
Egypt's stringent new conditions for peace, including a 50-year ban on immigration to Israel, are an answer to Israel's "transgression" on the Palestine issue, according to well-informed Egyptian sources.

But they point out that the conditions are more an "exercise in diplomacy" than inflexible demands to be presented at negotiating table.

The Egyptians believe that progress on the Palestinian issue will be necessary to take search for peace in the Middle East, a stage further to remain committed to the "step by step" approach of Dr. Shimon Peres, the American Secretary of State, but fear that the present impasse is so deep that momentum gained so far could be lost.

His latest Egyptian policy statement reflects the growing distance between the Arab states and Israel, which has remained intransigent over the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the Israelis have stood in their refusal either to recognize the PLO or to accept the voice of the Palestinians in the recent summit conference in Rabat. The Arab states have paved the way for PLO participation in future peace talks by recognizing it as a representative of the Palestinian people. The aim was to project the PLO into the peace process and hand over to it the

task of solving the Palestine issue.

Clearly, the Egyptian conditions are the strongest to be put forward since the post-1967 diplomatic battle began. They were outlined in a speech by Mr. Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, in Cairo last Friday.

He demanded pledges by Israel to stop immigration for the next 50 years, to compensate the Palestinians for "material and moral damage" during the past years, and to compensate the Arab states for damage caused during Israel's occupation.

"Every day we get a statement out of Israel maximizing her demands," a Foreign Ministry official said in Cairo.

There are statements against recognizing the PLO, against returning Egyptian officials captured in 1967 and against returning Arab territory captured in the 1967 war. Mr. Fahmy's statement was meant as a reply to this intransigence.

The question of Jewish immigration to Israel is an emotive one among the Arab states, particularly as it principally involves the two superpowers. In this context, Mr. Fahmy's statement may be regarded as a reminder to the United States and the Soviet Union of their recent agreement on Soviet Jewish emigration, which forms part of the détente arrangements.

According to well-placed Egyptian sources, President Sadat and his advisers recognize that it would be impossible

to dictate Israel's immigration policy. "However, the PLO is a fact and Arab recognition of it is also a fact," an Egyptian source said. "The PLO has appeared at the United Nations and a favourable resolution has been won. Israel's unreasonableness can only be answered in kind."

Although the Arabs demand a PLO voice in future negotiations, it has been agreed that in the initial stages Egypt could speak on the PLO's behalf. However, having committed itself to a solution to the Palestine issue, Egypt believes there must be some tangible progress on this question before it can enter the next stage of peace negotiations.

Jerusalem, Dec 15.—Israel is seeking clarification through diplomatic channels of Mr. Fahmy's statement calling for a 50-year immigration ban, authoritative sources said today. It was believed that Israel had put questions to the United States to pass on to Egypt.

Israel newspapers all reacted angrily to the speech, saying that the demand was tantamount to an Egyptian refusal to accept Israel's existence.

Mr. Menachem Begin, leader of the opposition Likud Party, said: "What Fahmy offers us is a choice between liquidation and liquidation. This should conclude our internal (Israeli) argument as to whether Egypt is one of the moderate or extreme Arab states."—Reuters and UPI.

Miami police check Stonehouse blood group

By Our Diplomatic Staff
Police in Miami are checking the blood group of Mr. John Stonehouse, the missing British MP, against blood samples found on a concrete "cuffin" which seems to have been used in a Mafia-style killing.

It is unlikely that the blood checks could provide any positive evidence of a link between the disappearance and the discovery of the concrete cast—which is known to have contained a body. But if the blood groups were found to differ it could at least rule out any connexion.

The Foreign Office is being kept informed of developments in the hunt for the missing MP through their consul in Miami, Mr. D. W. M. Pierotti. He is said to be in daily contact with the police.

The concrete slab was taken to the beach not far from the spot where Mr. Stonehouse disappeared after apparently entering the water for swim. But the body inside it was removed and the cast broken up before police could inspect it.

Part of the concrete was left behind on the beach and the rest was removed to a warehouse at Fort Lauderdale.

Grain for India

Delhi, Dec 15.—The United States will supply India with 300,000 tonnes of foodgrain, Mr. Daniel Moynihan, the United States Ambassador, told a press conference today.—Reuters.



President Ford enjoying a swim in Martinique yesterday, guarded by a French gendarme.

Mr Smith speaks of multiracial rule

Continued from page 1

We have got to accept that Rhodesia is going to be governed by all the people, white as well as blacks, and I believe that this is what is going to come. It would be a tragedy if we go to a stage where one day there was white rule and the next day there was black rule.

"I believe we have got to bring the African in or take him along with us." This was Mr. Smith's message. He had always said that, if he found Africans of ability and merit, he would be prepared to give them a chance. But, because of the attitude of extremism, so many had been unwilling to co-operate.

Asked if he was thinking in terms of parity in three years and majority rule in five, Mr. Smith said such thoughts had never entered his head and he did not think they ever would.

He discounted the prospect of Mr. Callaghan, the British Foreign Secretary, visiting Rhodesia on his forthcoming African tour. He described as sensible the South African decision to withdraw its paramilitary police units in the event of the ceasefire being effective. Relations between Rhodesia and South Africa were warm, he said, and there was no question of South Africa having "pulled the rug out" from under Rhodesia.

Mr. Mugabe, who was formerly secretary-general of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), and is regarded as one of the most influential of the former detainees, talking

to be today squashed convincingly speculation of a rift and a power struggle between himself and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, the leader of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). The speculation arose from the fact that Mr. Sithole was not one of the Zanu representatives at the initial discussions in Lusaka.

The viewpoint of the Zanu leadership, Mr. Mugabe said, had been that they would not attend any negotiations as prisoners. Then a second written invitation arrived from President Kaunda, President Nyerere, President Seretse Khama and Mr. Samora Machel, the Mozambique leader. "We did not want to show rudeness," Mr. Mugabe said. "Certainly the whole idea was repugnant to us. We had been told there had been talks with Vorster and that sort of thing and just imagine our feelings then. So our executive decided to send two lesser people, myself and Morton Malunga, to hear what it was all about."

They reported back to the Zanu executive in jail. "We recommended what was wanted was for us to try this exercise and if it failed, then to resort to military action," Mr. Mugabe said.

As a result Mr. Sithole attended the second round of negotiations in Lusaka and agreed to unite with Zapu and try to negotiate a settlement. The negotiation exercise had been forced on Zanu, he said, but they would do their best to make it successful. He was confident that the alliance established with the other nationalist groups would prevail.

Israel war hero gives up parliamentary seat

Moshe Brilliant
Jerusalem, Dec 15
Former General Ariel Sharon, who led the successful Israeli offensive across the Canal in the October 1973, resigned his seat in Parliament today to enable him to take a military appointment in the reserves. The Army needed him as being given prior emergency appointment.

at a meeting of his party, the Likud, General Sharon said he feared Israel faced the possibility of a difficult war that might be crucial for the survival of the Jewish nation. "Anyone who is able to contribute to the security effort must do so."

He said he had wanted to return to the regular army but was not accepted. He said today he would be active politically as long as he was not called up.

Attack trial postponed again

Beirut, Dec 15.—The trial of 92 charged with the attack on the Israeli military headquarters in Beirut last April, put off until January 18.

Sams drive off Israeli aircraft

Beirut, Dec 15.—Four Israeli aircraft were driven off by surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft fire during a raid into Lebanon today. The aircraft flew westward towards Tyre, Sidon and Beirut.—Reuters.

Full text of Nato foreign ministers' communiqué

Brussels, Dec 15.—Following is the full text of the final communiqué issued by the NATO foreign ministers at the end of their two-day session in Brussels on Friday, 13th December, 1974.

The North Atlantic Council met on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the alliance, ministers noted satisfaction that member states remain firmly committed to the alliance and that this had been expressed in the declaration.

Ministers reviewed developments in East-West relations. They noted progress, albeit uneven, in the past six years. They stated their readiness to continue their efforts to make progress in their negotiations and to work with the Soviet Union and other Pact countries aimed at improvement in East-West relations.

Ministers noted the increase in the strength of the Western countries, and bearing in mind the policy of détente, stressed their determination to maintain their own defensive strength.

Ministers had a broad discussion of the current situation for the maintenance of the alliance and noted progress made at both the national and international levels to the difficulties confronting the economies of the allied states.

Ministers affirmed their determination to seek appropriate solutions in the spirit of cooperation and confidence which characterizes their relations. Ministers continued to consult on discussions of economic and security issues within the framework of the competence of the relevant bodies.

Ministers noted that at the common security and cooperation conference there had been progress to show that substantial issues were being resolved. Some important questions remained to be resolved.

Ministers expressed their undiminished determination to work patiently and actively towards balanced and mutually beneficial results under all circumstances. They considered that a first step in this direction would be to reach a common understanding on the reduction of armaments and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Ministers were resolved to pursue negotiations with a view to achieving a higher level of security for Europe. They agreed to continue to work towards the achievement of a common understanding on the reduction of armaments and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Ministers noted the progress of the work of the Committee of the Challenges of Modern Society, especially on solar and geothermal energy resources as well as on water pollution, improved sewage disposal, urban transport and health care.

Ministers also noted the start of projects on the disposal of hazardous wastes and action to follow up completed CCMSS studies on the prevention of oil spills, the safety improvement of nuclear power, and the quality of life for their citizens.

Ministers directed the Council in permanent session to consider and decide on the date and place of the spring session of the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council.—Reuters.

Leading article, page 13



In some parts of the world, it's still feeding five thousand.

We haven't really come very far in the last two thousand years. In most parts of the world, people are still poor. Still underfed. Still waiting for a miracle to happen.

Unfortunately, the last few years haven't been too good for miracles. So, even at Christmas, some of us go hungry while the rest of us eat. Some of

us go thirsty, while the rest of us drink.

At times, the world doesn't seem a very fair place, does it? If you agree, perhaps you'll do something to help restore the balance this Christmas.

That doesn't just mean giving the hungry food. It means giving them the means to grow it. A few tractors here. Some seed grain there. Somewhere

else, maybe an agricultural school.

None of this would be possible, though, without money.

And that's one of the few things Heaven doesn't yet provide.

Christian Aid.

Christian Aid, PO Box 1, London SW1.
Giro Number 5563151.

Appointments

GENERAL VACANCIES

RENT FREE MODERN FLAT
in North London
available for
CHAUFFEUR
Chairman or well known
International Company seeks
experienced chauffeur. Salary
£245 p.w. Write Box 0037 M,
The Times.

APPEALS ORGANIZERS

required (male or female) to
visit homes and collect
donations for the appeal.
Experience in active
church, charity, or political
work would be an advantage.
Organizers, London based
are required for the appeal.
Salary position with car or car
allowance. Please contact
Mr. J. H. Cole, Help the
Aged, 115, Dean St., London,
W1A 2AP, quoting ref. 100,
Mondays or Thursdays, 12 to
2 p.m.

MARKET RESEARCH

Our client, a leading British
company, has a vacancy for a
graduate with a minimum of
experience in a research
company. The successful
candidate will be responsible
for the planning and
conducting of market
research projects. Non-graduate
experience and salary to £12,000
a year.

Telephone Andrew Bateman
on 01-584 3615

GRADUATE MEN

MARKETING STATISTICS ASSISTANT

Men of 21+ with either a
level 2 or 3 qualification in
statistics and previous
experience in a marketing
company. Salary to £12,000
a year.

Contact Mr. Bateman
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TRAINEE TRADER

Don't condemn yourself to
a life of monotony and
boredom. Join the City
and become a part of the
exciting world of finance.
We are looking for a
graduate with a minimum
of experience in a
trading company. Salary
to £12,000 a year.

DAVID WHITE ASSOC. LTD.

SHIP CHARTERING AND FREIGHT MARKET

Person with preferably 10
years' experience, capable
of taking sole charter
department. Previous
experience in shipping
industry. Write David White
Associates Ltd., 67, New
Shandon Road, London SE1.

RESPONSIBLE COUPLE

Accommodation for wife
and husband. The husband
is a responsible couple
with a young child and
wishes to move to a new
home. Salary to £12,000
a year.

See 0435 M, The Times.

EXPERIENCED CHAUFFEURS

Wanted experienced chauffeurs
for London and South
of England. Salary to
£245 p.w. Write Box 0037
M, The Times.

TRANSLATOR ALGERIA

TECHNICAL TRANSLATOR
(English/French) required for
long-term contract in Algeria.
Salary to £12,000 a year.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

CU Charms, Cross Road,
01-636 3794/6.

"GET INTO OIL"

Where is interesting, where
is the money? Join the
oil industry and become a
part of the exciting world
of finance. Salary to
£12,000 a year.

DRINK PERSONNEL

Young man required as General
Assistant for a leading
hotel. Salary to £12,000
a year.

MARKETING COORDINATOR

required. See general part
of this advertisement for
details. Salary to £12,000
a year.

FOR OVERSEAS OPPORTUNITIES

in the Middle East. Salary
to £12,000 a year.

NEW YEAR NEW CAREER

Don't let the New Year
pass you by. Join the
oil industry and become a
part of the exciting world
of finance. Salary to
£12,000 a year.

ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED FOR

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RETIRED POST TECHNOLOGIST

required. Salary to £12,000
a year.

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

required. Salary to £12,000
a year.

CONVEYANCING CLERK

£20,000
Male/female, age 18-25, with
experience in conveyancing.
Salary to £20,000 a year.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALANGATE LEGAL STAFF
have a vacancy for a
graduate with a minimum
of experience in a legal
company. Salary to £12,000
a year.

SALES AND MARKETING

LIFE BEGINS AT 40 A National
Company seeks mature executives
with proven commercial record
in the pharmaceutical and
chemical industries for
participation in our
1975 expansion programme
throughout the United Kingdom
and Europe. Full personal details
in confidence to Box 0072 M, The
Times.

ACCOUNTANCY

AGAS and finalists wanted for 50
temporary positions for 10
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a year.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

TEACHERS FOR FINLAND AND ITALY
Teachers of English and
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the language schools in
Finland and Italy. Salary
to £12,000 a year.

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Urgently required for
January, 1975.
Private College.
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Applications are invited for
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LEEDS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

The Governors of Leeds Girls' High School
(Direct Grant Grammar School of 850 girls)
invite applications for the position of
Bursar and Clerk
to the Governors to take effect from 1st September
1975. Commencing salary to be agreed and to be in
accordance with age, qualifications and experience.
Thereafter Burnham-linked as to increments and review.
Forms of application (to be returned by 31st January
1975) and further information may be obtained from
The Clerk to the Governors,
Leeds Girls' High School,
Headingley Hill, Leeds 6.
PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

NORWICH SCHOOL

The Governors invite applications for the post of
HEADMASTER
which becomes vacant in September, 1975, on the
appointment of Mr. Stuart Andrews as Headmaster of
Clifton College.
Details of the school will be found in the Public and
Preparatory Schools Year Book. Further particulars of
the appointment will be sent on request.
The salary will be in accordance with qualifications and
experience, but will be not less than that for a Burnham
Group IX school, together with appropriate allowances.
Letters of application, enclosing curriculum vitae with
the names of three referees, should be sent to C. H.
Sutton, F.C.A., The Clerk to the Governors, 7 The Close,
Norwich, NR1 4DP, so as to arrive not later than
Monday 20th January 1975.

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SENIOR LECTURESHIP
IN LAW
Applications are invited for a Senior Lectureship in Law, 1975.
The salary scale is R14,400 to R20,400 per annum. The successful
candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervision of
students in the field of Law. The post is full-time and requires
a minimum of 10 years' experience in a university or similar
institution. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute
to the development of the Law Faculty and to the University as a
whole. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University
of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.
Applications must reach the Registrar by the 15th January, 1975.
The University reserves the right to appoint a person other than
one of the applicants, or to make no appointment.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of New England
Armidale, New South Wales
VISITING LECTURER/
SENIOR LECTURER IN
GEOGRAPHY
Two visiting positions are
available in the Department
of Geography. The successful
candidate will be responsible
for teaching and supervision
of students in the field of
Geography. The post is full-
time and requires a minimum
of 10 years' experience in a
university or similar institution.
The successful candidate will
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graphy Department and to the
University as a whole. Applica-
tions should be sent to the
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England, Armidale, New South
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the Registrar by the 15th Janu-
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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Aberdeen
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE
Applications are invited for
the post of Lecturer in Agri-
culture. The successful candi-
date will be responsible for
teaching and supervision of
students in the field of Agri-
culture. The post is full-time
and requires a minimum of 10
years' experience in a univer-
sity or similar institution. The
successful candidate will be
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development of the School of
Agriculture and to the Univer-
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should be sent to the Registrar,
University of Aberdeen, 100
Riverside, Aberdeen. Applica-
tions must reach the Registrar
by the 15th January, 1975.

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University of Sydney
CHAIR OF VETERINARY
SURGERY
Applications are invited for
the Chair of Veterinary Surgery.
The successful candidate will
be responsible for teaching and
supervision of students in the
field of Veterinary Surgery. The
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a minimum of 10 years' experi-
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institution. The successful candi-
date will be expected to contrib-
ute to the development of the
School of Veterinary Medicine
and to the University as a whole.
Applications should be sent to
the Registrar, University of
Sydney, Sydney, New South
Wales. Applications must reach
the Registrar by the 15th Janu-
ary, 1975.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Queensland
Australia
READER/SENIOR
LECTURER IN
MARKETING
A Ph.D. or high quality
graduate with a minimum of
10 years' experience in a
university or similar institution.
The successful candidate will
be responsible for teaching and
supervision of students in the
field of Marketing. The post
is full-time and requires a
minimum of 10 years' experi-
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institution. The successful candi-
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School of Business and to the
University as a whole. Applica-
tions should be sent to the
Registrar, University of Queens-
land, St. Louis, Queensland.
Applications must reach the
Registrar by the 15th January,
1975.

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University of Cambridge
LADY MARGARET'S
PROFESSORSHIP
OF DIVINITY
The Professorship of Divinity
is a full-time position. The
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responsible for teaching and
supervision of students in the
field of Divinity. The post
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Faculty of Divinity and to the
University as a whole. Applica-
tions should be sent to the
Registrar, University of Cam-
bridge, Cambridge. Applica-
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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Cricket

مَكْزَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

being ended first thing today. Edwards's second Test hundred gave the home crowd (23,940 at several hundred seagulls) all the needed to cheer. His other, all against England, was at Trent Bridge in 1970, the last time that Australia batted with quite such certainty against England as they have here. Edwards's was a new innings, full of quick steps and economical strokes. With him as a batsman, the form that is so unpromisingly formidable looking about Australia's middle order.

Lloyd in agony after being hit by

If the match is to be saved it will have to be done by the same means as the question was asked. Crowdy showed when, of all things he was asked to open England's second innings this afternoon, he was asked to open for the Lord Luckhurst being out of action (the may or may not was on Tuesday) and when the matter was put to the captain, the interval Crowdy said he would be pleased to do it. So did Knorr. Perhaps Crowdy felt that if answered in the affirmative he would be in one of the opening rows anyway, even from number 3.

None ever deserved a share of more than Crowdy today—his first Test match in Australia—and he got it. In the first over he was dropped at fourth slip, Redpath arriving across third slip and falling to hold the catch. When he was Crowdy edged Thomson behind the stumps and he was dropped at fourth slip, a chance which Marsh and Van Chappell left to each other. There were a couple of nicks over the top of the stumps, but the bats—suggesting, not surprising, that Crowdy is not yet fully adjusted to the bounce. You play with a bat slightly higher in the air than you would, because of the bounce, especially in Perth.

for most of the time, though Cowdrey played with a confidence which made a big innings seem possible. With Lloyd showing signs of resolution as in the first innings, the result was well what was not to play. England reached 50 for no wicket with less than 50 minutes left. Had England been something like 100 for none at the close, with Cowdrey to spend tomorrow with his bat out, anything was on.

But fate struck again, Lloyd taking hit a nasty enough blow to need to retire. He did his best sick it out, but it was no

It was a fitting commentary on Saturday's match at Old Dear Park, applying equally to both sides, that the Irish were "beating the satisfaction of beating their fellow exiles by two goals and a penalty goal (15 to 10) to nil." It was a fitting comment, too, about as rare as a bag of sugar in a grocer's shelf. In the first half Jennings had put the Welsh in the lead, but in the second attempt, there was the fleeting glimpse of Browne's, the Irish full back, twice tackling the flying Welsh forward, who was working up to Frost, standing in for the injured O'Connell, at scrum half. In the second half, the Welsh were in the forwards, where the Irish also had to do without O'Connell. Had Reid not missed a penalty, the Irish would have been level at half-time.

In a game of 29 penalties, there were 14 in favour of the Irish, who would pass waiting for fifteen footballers if the Welsh appeared in the

more drastic, it may have been because they had more of the ball from Luck and Kneont. They had no other big advantage: John Williams. In breaking the impasse early in the second half, Williams showed once more the value of a good attacking full back. Rees had sprung up like the demon king

start a move in the centre.
Williams, coming hard into the
line, was always held; but two
times he took two rucks later, he
forced his way over the line.
The Irish backs as a whole had
little finesse, and their main means
of attack was the mangled kicking
heel.
The other Welsh try went to
Taylor, who took over when Max-
field was held on the line. Jenkins
converted both tries.

W. P. R. Williams, P. R. Williams,
P. W. Rees, R. Hughes, A. Jenkins,
J. Shanklin, G. Davies, J. Thomas,
J. Watkins, C. Baker, M. Williams,
H. Jones, D. Roberts, H. Taylor,
D. Lewis, E. Roberts, S. A. Garade.

LONDON IRISH: D. Brownlie; O.
L. Jones; L. Jones; J. Frost; A. New-
man; J. Kennedy; J. Jones; J. Jones;
J. Jones; J. Jones; J. Jones; J. Jones;
J. Jones; J. Jones; J. Jones; J. Jones;

(London), Major S. A. Garade

ng amateur

not the kind of player to make a fool of anyone. This was a ruthlessly effective performance that suggested he should retain his title.

Mohabbat's next opponent will be Kevin Shawcross, of Australia, who beat Gamal Awad, of Egypt, 2-0. Shawcross had previously dismissed the Egyptian David Scott, of South Africa, and Awad, who was beaten in the qualifying competition, had impressively made the most of his brief chance as a "lucky loser" by winning a gap in the draw.

The Egyptian is a little younger, but he is only 18 and is obviously short of international experience. His contest with Shawcross, who is 71, will be a little less than twice his weight, was an extraordinary spectacle irrespective of the fact that it was a rather unfair, as if matching a puma with a pigmy. But Awad, who had settled down after a nervous start, played some good snook.

India's first Test captain, Ranjiv Singh, was named in an innings and 17 runs by the west Indies in the second Test there today have been a number of changes in the Indian side. In the first Test, starting on December 27, The selectors have dropped Brijesh Sharma for the fourth Test. He was named in the team but batting showed up the weaknesses in the West Indies armoured fast bowlers were ineffective against him. G. S. Lakshman, the slow left-hander, troubled the batsmen but he was not the only one to do so. He was named in the team but batting showed up the weaknesses in the West Indies armoured fast bowlers were ineffective against him. G. S. Lakshman, the slow left-hander, troubled the batsmen but he was not the only one to do so. He was named in the team but batting showed up the weaknesses in the West Indies armoured fast bowlers were ineffective against him. G. S. Lakshman, the slow left-hander, troubled the batsmen but he was not the only one to do so.

The delegates from the Pakistan, meeting in London, agreed to give the other countries a year to try to resume playing cricket in Test cricket. Mr Khan said that Pakistan would remain to tour Pakistan between October and December 1978. Similarly, Pakistan wished to tour England between February and February, 1978. He would have arranged a date for a visit to New Zealand. They had already invited New Zealand to visit Pakistan.

—Reuter.

[illegible]

East Africa will compete

[illegible]

Nairobi, Dec 15.—An East African team will definitely take part in the first world cricket tournament to be played in England next summer, the East African Cricket Board announced here. In view of the sports boycott declared on Britain following the South African election in Africa, there was at one time some doubt about East African participation in the tournament. A total boycott on sporting contacts with Britain, later reduced this to a partial one, was the result.

Mr Titus Oates, chairman of the East African Cricket Board, said that Kenya and Uganda would be the only teams to be allowed to take part in the Prudential Cup, together with Zambia, which together with Kenya and Uganda, will be invited to the first conference, have not yet to a query as to whether players from the other two parts. A team will be formed from all four countries if

Vehtik's involvement a surprise

Mixed XI to tour S Africa

The England hockey team, preparing for the World Cup in London, lost to the United States in all four matches in the preliminary tournament which ended last Derby yesterday. The spacious grounds of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club provided a suitable venue for spirited competition. The English forwards were unimpaired. A healthy crop of reliable back defenders was available, but the attack was readily available but the attack crop class forwards left the selection of the nine goals scored by the England forwards to the select band.

Cape Town, Dec. 15.—Brian Close will lead a multi-racial international cricket team on a South African tour in February. The sponsor, Mr D. H. Robins, said here. Mr Robins said: "The tour will be seven or eight matches and we may increase the strength. This will be the strongest team I have ever taken on tour."

If the invitations were all accepted, the tour would consist of English, Australian, West Indian and Pakistan players. Kent's West Indian, John Shepherd, was included, along with P. Youngs Ahmed. Both South Africa with the team last year.

Two matches would be against black sides—Oswestry, near Johannesburg and the other in Cape Town. Robins said.—Reuter.

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land in their first two matches came from short corners, one by Sealey and two by him in their third game against combined Services three of their goals were scored while Sealey was playing. Neale's absence because of a hamstring injury took some of the sting out of the England attack, but the return of Thomson, of Hounslow, who scored a well-kept goal against the combined services yesterday evening, and set up the penalty stroke from which Blackmore scored the scoring against Midlands, helped to restore the Welsh's personal involvement in the attack as an added stimulant to England's general pattern of play. The return of the two corners, could hardly be a better response to the critics' call than by scoring four goals in four matches. The difference between the two sides are congratulated on their high record. Both in the match

A somewhat inexperienced, single-winger, both their machines, and their tactics, in the first work but appearing a little in front of goal. There was no doubt that the Welsh had a day for a long time until resolved the deadlock off a from the right by Walker. In the closing minutes but R. a scratch player at golf, the ball came the bar with the keeper out of position.

Midlands, inspired by their captain, finished with a defeat but the satisfaction of making an England team work hard for rewards. Midlands were under a penalty stroke away against the combined services. Owen, their goal-keeper, successfully padded away a shot from a short corner and the Welsh should have been more than a long time in North, West, and Combine

[illegible][illegible]

[REDACTED]

"We are monks, not businessmen, and we depend on Midland Bank advice and support"

-Dom Dyfrig Rushton, Abbot of Prinknash Abbey nr Gloucester



The old Abbey of Prinknash has existed in one form or another for over a thousand years.

The historic old house with 25 acres was given to the Benedictine Community on Caldey Island off South Wales in 1928.

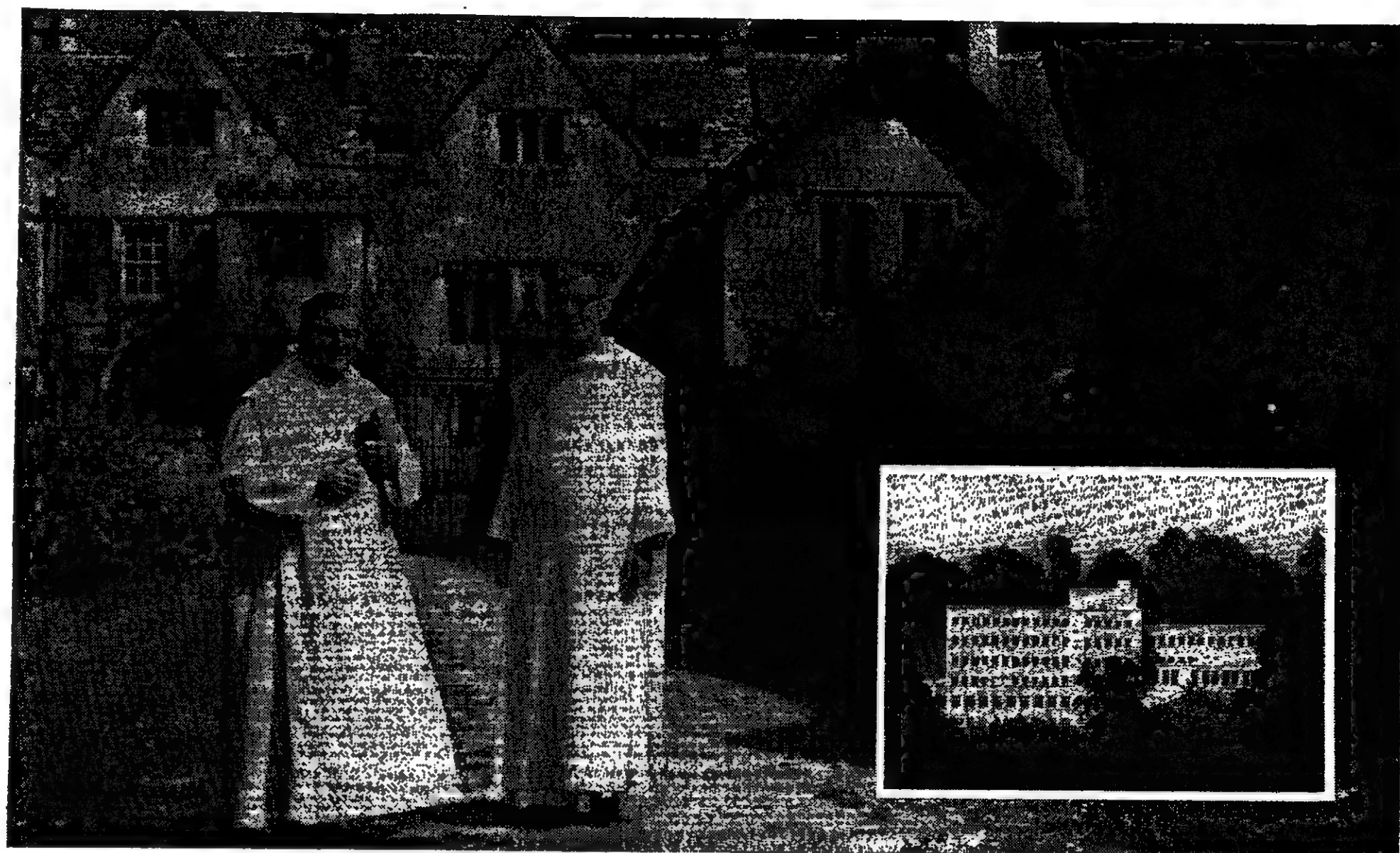
In 1922, while the community was still on Caldey Island, they opened an account with Midland Bank at Birmingham, later transferring it to Gloucester when they moved to Prinknash Abbey.

"Our community has to be self-supporting" says Father Leo, the Abbey's Bursar, "the Midland have always helped us when we needed help and we rely on their advice to keep us afloat."

The community moved to Prinknash in 1928, and their first concern was to build a larger home.

The foundation stone was laid in 1939. But war delayed work, and the new Abbey was only finished in 1972, the monks themselves carrying out all the ironwork, glasswork and organ building.

On the advice of their bank manager, they deposited capital with Midland Bank Finance Corporation, where it



continued to earn money until it was required to pay contractors' costs.

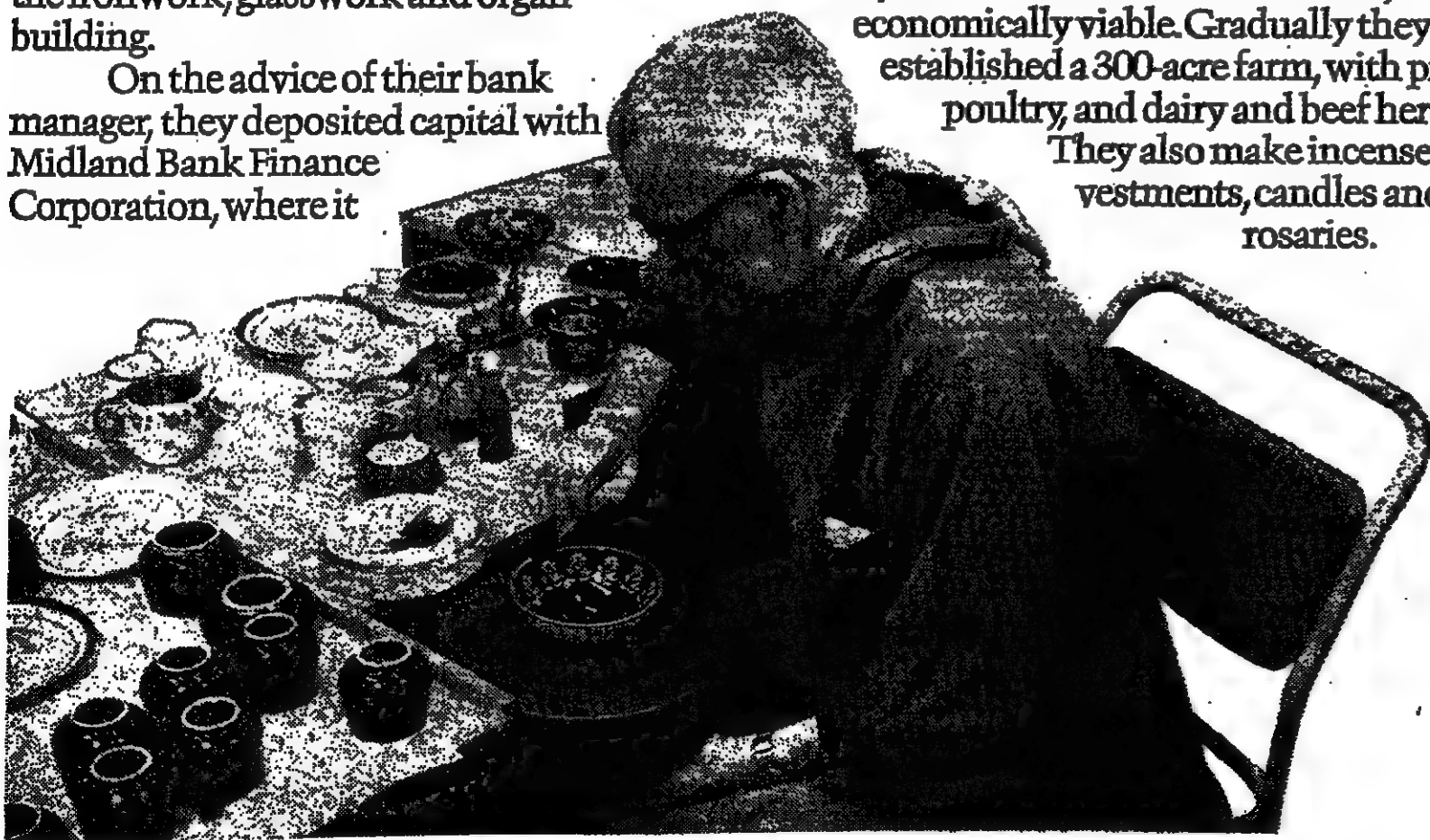
They also needed to make the Abbey economically viable. Gradually they established a 300-acre farm, with pigs, poultry, and dairy and beef herds. They also make incense, vestments, candles and rosaries.

Midland Bank also help the Abbey with this export business, carrying out all the necessary documentation on its behalf.

Today, Prinknash Abbey is a thriving community, with other foundations at Farnborough Abbey and Pluscarden Abbey in Scotland.

"Making ends meet isn't always easy," says Dom Dyfrig Rushton, present Abbot of Prinknash, "especially since our religious duties take precedence over every other activity."

"We are monks, not businessmen, and we depend on Midland Bank for advice and support."



Prinknash pottery

But the Abbey's main source of income today is the new pottery, built with financial help from the Midland. The craft started when excavating the new Abbey foundations revealed a rich seam of clay.

"At first, we made pottery for our own use," says Father Fabian. "But the idea snowballed, and today we have a world-wide export business in decorative and domestic tableware, tankards and candleholders—all designed by Brother Thomas."



There's no such thing as a typical customer of Midland Bank. So there are remarkably few kinds of organisation which can't benefit from our vast range of experience and resources.



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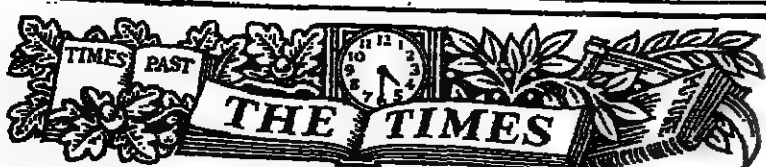
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Dangerous new rules in the Middle East game

learned the instrument
school. The music-holder,
appeared to be spokesman,
the pair said: "No, He is
it himself and now he let
me." Apart from the vi-
lary, the Hampsteadsati-
South London grows spac-

*Note to a firm of publ
who should know bette
you wish me to read c
the first line of your c
letters, you must not
them: "Dear Sir (or i
enlightened days)/Mod...*

P



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UNIVERSITIES FEEL THE PINCH

The financial condition of many universities, and indeed of higher education in general, is fast approaching a critical state, as Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, recognized when he announced last week that universities would receive an additional grant of £15m in the academic year 1974-75. In the past few months there have been unmistakable signs of the precariousness of their finances. Large and growing deficits in current expenditure have been tolerated, presumably in the strength of the hope that the end of the University Grants Committee will have no alternative but to bridge the budgetary gap. London is now faced with a deficit of £6m and Manchester, Leeds, Bristol and Oxford are also running into deficit. Professorial chairs that have fallen into disrepair have been postponed. So Mr Prentice's announcement is timely. Yet substantial economies will still be required at the universities, and the extra £15m will only help them to meet their inescapable commitments, as universities must bear their share of the twin burdens of inflation and the restraint on the growth of public expenditure as it is necessary to reduce it. It is all services financed predominantly through public funds, higher education must be satisfied with more modest goals, in both of financial support and plans for the future expansion of the system.

Already the target for student numbers in 1980 has been named to match the harsher economic climate and a consequent fall in the demand from overseas for places in higher education. In 1970 a target of 100,000 students was set, and since planning paper predicted without any commitment for more policy—that more than 100,000 student places would be required in higher education in 1980. This projection was set downwards to 75,000 in Thatcher's White Paper published in December, 1972. Last month Mr Prentice gave a new target of 60,000 student places at the end of the decade. According to the Government, a little embarrassment perhaps to announce a reduction from figure that Labour spokesmen had criticised as too small less than two years earlier, this total of 60,000 places is still consistent with the Robbins principle that at no point between now (October 1963) and 1980 should the competition for university places become more severe.

However, these successive reductions in the target for student places in higher education in 1980 represent cuts in projected rather than actual expenditure. The universities face much more pressing financial difficulties. The source of those difficulties was the decision by Mr Barber almost a year ago, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, to refuse universities the expected supplementary grant to compensate for the effect of inflation. So while in the first year of the present quinquennium universities received full compensation for inflation, they were told that in the present year they would receive none. Fortunately Mr Prentice has intervened, and the extra £15m should restore about half of the value taken from the original grant by inflation.

Even while it is granted that universities must accept their share of budgetary restraint, their present financial state gives rise to concern for two reasons. First, the effect of the present restraint is indiscriminate. The failure to compensate universities for inflation leaves them little choice but to cut across the board. For example, a university faced with a mounting deficit and the need to make immediate and effective cuts in expenditure is forced to resort to expedients such as allowing academic posts that become vacant to remain unfilled. If cuts must be made, and the consequent deterioration in standards accepted, universities should as far as possible be given the

opportunity to discriminate between what is central to their academic purposes and what is peripheral. In the present situation such discrimination is difficult or even impossible. Secondly, the method of financing universities is related intimately to their traditional autonomy. The institution of the University Grants Committee which serves as a buffer between the individual university and the state is renowned in other countries as an ingenious and typically British compromise to reconcile the often contrary principles of academic freedom and public accountability. Almost as important in this respect is the device of a fixed quinquennium whereby universities receive financial support from the Exchequer for a five-year period. The traditional wisdom is that this arrangement reinforces the independence of universities and allows them to make reasonably solid plans for the medium-term if not the long-term future.

The progress of inflation has already undermined the device of a fixed quinquennium. If universities must rely on the UGC, and so on the state, for annual subsidies to restore the purchasing power of their budgets, then their autonomy is compromised and new obstacles are placed in the way of effective and rational planning, which is more, not less, essential in a time of budgetary restraint. Certainly the universities, in common with all higher education, cannot be insulated entirely from the colder economic climate. But the immediate savings in actual and projected expenditure that may be necessary should not be achieved at the cost of further erosion of the independence of the universities or their ability to discriminate. Their present plight is an illustration of the inevitable strains that occur when a set of financial and administrative arrangements postulated confidently on rapid and continuous expansion must be adapted to a period of slow or no growth.

Nato governments spent their money better they could do a lot to maintain the military balance without enlarging their defence budgets. Equally, worrying is the lack of general political awareness of the situation. This is reflected in the struggles which most governments have to maintain even their present level of military spending. The reason is not far to seek. Thirty years of peace and prosperity, coupled with recent moves towards détente with the Soviet Union, have persuaded a great many people that the military defence of western Europe is no longer important. This might be true if there were any sign that the Russians were turning their swords to ploughshares. Unfortunately there is none. They vastly outnumber Nato in ground troops and tanks in central Europe and the balance is still shifting in their favour. There is absolutely no sign that they regard détente as a reason for diminishing their military effort. Until they agree to controlled mutual reductions there is no reason for Nato to relax its effort either.

As the Commons goes into today's debate, a Conservative and a Labour hiccup of logic are worth noting. It is a platitudinous defence of the servant of foreign policy; the defence review has been designed to regroup British ground and air strength to meet any threat to the land mass of western Europe. The central European front line, because Britain's front line, and the Royal Navy will be concentrated in the eastern Atlantic to keep open the route of reinforcement to western Europe from the United States. How strange that such a strategy should be carried out by its logical limit by a Government that purports to have doubts about Britain's integral place in Europe, and should be opposed by the party whose foreign and economic policies through the years have made the logic inescapable.

Of course, the Government's logic is not unflawed, as a Labour backbench member illustrates. Signed by nearly 100 backbenchers, it protests against continuing British involvement east of Suez in Oman. Well, defence ministers are what foreign secretaries and chancellors of the exchequer allow them to be. The defence review is one of those compromises that Mr Callaghan ought to be defending at meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party, much as Diego Garcia is a Foreign Office concession to Washington in lieu of British withdrawal from Singapore. All in all, I hope Mr Mason has the audacity to wear the prototype of the Defence Department today—at any rate until he has had time and leisure to design a tie to celebrate his appointment, with effect from next month, as chairman of the European Group of Defence Ministers: a personal tribute on which he is right to set no small value as his critics hit him hard.

Britain and the Middle East

From the Editor of *The Guardian*
Sir, Your front page yesterday (December 14) correctly reports a *Guardian* spokesman as saying that last week's Middle Eastern advertisement was rejected by us because we felt that it could encourage racial hatred. The *Guardian* decision was taken in the light of recent experience over such advertisements, the last of which led to a round of recriminations in our columns between the Syrian and Israeli embassies. Unhappily you too now look like undergoing a similar experience.

On behalf of *The Guardian*, may I state that we believe *The Times* to be entirely right in saying that the Board of Deputies of British Jews is making a mistake in reporting you to the Attorney-General. In so doing, the Board is seeking to deny to others a freedom to advertise their case which it has recently exercised itself. Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR HEIKERINGTON, *The Guardian*, 192 Gray's Inn Road, WC1. December 15.

From Mr Simon Walker
Sir, I was one of those who wrote to you initially protesting about the full page advertisement placed by the "Committee for Justice in the Middle East". Its claims were undoubtedly inaccurate. The argument that contributions to Israel are at the expense of the British taxpayer was the crudest distortion, and the advertisement contributed nothing to rational debate on the Middle East. Had it not been a paid advertisement, I have no doubt your editorial discretion would not have accepted it as an article. However, my letter objected to the content of the advertisement, not for a moment did I question your right to publish it, and it distresses me that most of your correspondents, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews should have done so. The *Times* has accepted advertisements before which have disparaged no less than last Wednesday's. Celebrations of civil liberties in countries which deny their citizens the most basic human rights, and the series of advertisements placed by the "Club of Ten" come to mind, and you have rightly opened your columns to individuals such as Mr Peter Hain, in order to move the paid advertisement. Readers of *The Times* are, by and large, discerning people, and when they read of "deliberate Israeli bombings", they are quite likely to recall Fedayeen attacks on Qiryat Shmona, Ma'alot or Bet She'an. The reasoned logic offered by the Director of the Anglo-Israel Association (December 14) is the best reply to such advertising, not the hysteria encompassed by some of your other correspondents and cries of "racism": most readers of *The Times* are quite capable of detecting the distinction.

As you rightly point out, *The Times* has been a consistent supporter of the Israeli cause, and has shown scant sympathy for the views propounded by the "Committee for Justice in the Middle East". Those are entirely my feelings, but to deny access to the pages of our newspaper on any grounds other than those of strict legality would muzzle free expression far more effectively than those recent actions by the NUJ which you have rightly protested. Notwithstanding my revulsion for the content of last Wednesday's advertisement, I was surprised to find it reprinted in the *Evening Standard*. If the medical employees of the NHS are powerless to intervene in the reorganisation (disorganisation?) of the NHS, it is not surprising that the apparatus and personnel are unavailable, and if many hospitals in which we work were dumps at the turn of the century and have

Israel and Unesco's work

From the Editor-in-Chief of the *Unesco Courier*
Sir, I have read with surprise the letter to the Editor entitled "Exclusion of Israel from Unesco" published in *The Times* of December 5. I regret that such eminent personalities as Sir Julian Huxley (Unesco's first Director-General), Graham Greene, Henry Moore, Sir H. G. St John-Stevas, Sir Peter Morrison, Wheeler, K. R. Popper, and others have seen fit to co-sign a statement containing so many errors of fact.

Israel has not been excluded from Unesco or from any of its regional groups. It is untrue to state that two resolutions regarding Israel passed by the last session of Unesco's General Conference "deprive Israel of the benefits belonging to that body". Israel's status as a full-fledged member of Unesco remains unchanged. By no means has the imagination of anyone entitled to maintain that Israel has been ousted from Unesco or deprived of its rights. It is equally untrue to state that Israel has been "excluded from all the regional activities of Unesco". Israel has been excluded from none of the organization's regional work. Unesco established five regional groups to facilitate the working out of limited regional activities by certain countries. These are Europe, Latin America, Arab States, Africa, Asia and Oceania. At the last General Conference Israel introduced a request to be listed in the European regional group. This was turned down, but it was not a request to belong to the Asian group although it had participated in several Asian regional activities in the past. However, prior to the General Conference, Israel had never belonged to any regional group so that its status has not changed. It can continue to participate as an observer in European and other regional activities of Unesco in exactly the same manner as it has done year in and year out in the past.

In this respect, Israel's situation is no different from that of the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand prior to the last General Conference since these countries like Israel for many years belonged to no regional group. The second resolution referred to the preservation of the cultural heritage of Jerusalem. It was the culmination of six years of repeated Unesco appeals to Israel to cease its archaeological excavations and

alterations in the cultural and historical sites, particularly Muslim and Christian Holy Places in the Old City of Jerusalem. As early as November, 1968, Unesco's General Conference addressed an urgent international appeal to Israel to this effect. Similar appeals were reiterated by Unesco's Executive Board twice in 1969, once in 1971, twice in 1972 and again by Unesco's General Conference in 1972. By that time, Unesco was in possession of reports by special representatives of Unesco who had gone to Jerusalem to study and survey the situation on the spot. In May-June of this year the 94th session of Unesco's Executive Board voted to "condemn the persistent violation by Israel of the (previous) resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Conference and the Executive Board" and decided to submit the matter again to the 1974 General Conference. Thus, after six long years of patient effort the Unesco General Conference in its turn condemned Israel's attitude as "contradictory to the aims of the Organization as laid down in its Constitution". The Conference voted to apply sanctions to Israel and "withhold assistance in the fields of education, science and culture until such time as it scrupulously respects" previous Conference resolutions on the subject. The letter to *The Times* gives the impression that this was a sudden decision motivated by political considerations and a desire to "gang-up" on Israel. I trust your readers will now understand that such a justification is neither fair nor justified. Unesco needs the help of all the world's scientists, scholars, educators, thinkers and artists as well as the support of public opinion of all countries. It is my sincere hope that the co-signatories of the letter published in *The Times* are other persons or groups who may have envisaged suspending their participation in Unesco's work on the basis of erroneous information will revise their judgment and will continue to work with us on behalf of the noble principles for which Unesco stands. Yours faithfully, S. M. KOFFLER, Editor-in-Chief, *Unesco Courier*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7 Place de Fontenay, 75006 Paris, December 10.

Medical salaries and NHS
From Dr M. S. Ross
Sir, This really is a ridiculous country. How on earth can any official body seriously contemplate such a rise in salaries of £15,000-£30,000 for senior civil servants? It is of no importance that much of it will go in tax. That is true for everyone and is strictly irrelevant. I recently participated in the correspondence on Consultant contracts and I was and remain disconcerted that our negotiating representatives have been exclusively occupied with consultant salaries while the hospital service is declining in quality to the extent that it becomes an embarrassment to be associated with the prevailing standards. In such circumstances it seems that a rise in consultant salaries may give us more pocket money while the ship goes down, in itself not a particularly coherent professional objective. However, since there really are government servants on £30,000 a year, and I was and remain disconcerted that our negotiating representatives have been exclusively occupied with consultant salaries while the hospital service is declining in quality to the extent that it becomes an embarrassment to be associated with the prevailing standards. In such circumstances it seems that a rise in consultant salaries may give us more pocket money while the ship goes down, in itself not a particularly coherent professional objective.

Incitement to disaffection

From Mr J. R. Beevor
Sir, I, the undersigned (to borrow the style of the National Council for Civil Liberties and its friends) consider that the Incitement to Disaffection Act 1934 is essential to the defence of the public interest. The sovereign people, having through the medium of their elected governments determined inter alia that they will oppose murder and rebellion in Northern Ireland, require an instrument for the execution of that policy. That instrument is the armed forces of the Crown and their volunteer professional members.

Any member of the armed forces who departs from his duty faces penalties under military law for desertion or mutiny; without such discipline those forces would be ineffective for any purpose. It is entirely appropriate that any person who attempts to subvert the discipline of the armed forces should be liable to penalties equal to those faced by the soldier himself; indeed, in the case of certain social provocateurs, given their educational and social advantages, it is appropriate that the penalty they receive should be greater. The signatories to the letter which appeared on December 11 over the address of the National Council of Civil Liberties call for the repeal of a law which prevents them, and those with whom they sympathise, from inciting others to break a different law. Thus they are at only one remove from the currently prevalent anarchism which claims for any individual who happens to disagree with any law duly passed by the popularly elected Parliament of this country, the right to break it at will and to incite others to do likewise. All responsible politicians of all parties have rightly declared their opposition to such thinking; no doubt the same applies to the members of the legal, literary, entertainment and teaching professions to quote their letter—why not the "butchers, bakers and candlestick makers" while they were about it? Yours faithfully, J. R. BEEVOR, 6 Campden House Terrace, W8, December 11.

Public lending right
From Lady Antonia Fraser and others
Sir, While otherwise endorsing your timely leading article (December 12), may we try to nail once and for all the misapprehension that "unfortunately such studies as have been made show that the administrative complexity and cost of directly relating the public lending right to public lending is formidable". The Public Lending Right Writers Action Group originally proposed in 1973 and which is now the agreed policy of all the major associations and unions of writers is in essence the same as schemes now being operated in several countries. It is not complex but simple. It consists of a register of authors and a sample of libraries. In its preliminary draft this scheme was approved by ICL, Leasco and Leonard Griffiths and Associates. It has since had a thorough investigation by Logica, the Central Statistical Office and the Technical Investigation Group set up by the Department of Education and Science. Its cost (in round figures £300,000 per year) is the same as that of the alternative, the purchase-price scheme which your leading article so rightly condemns. For this expenditure on administration (10 per cent of the total if the total were to be £3m, which would represent payment of a £300,000 per year loan), the loan sampling scheme would give a greater degree of accuracy in measuring the use of library books than any scheme in operation in any country. By contrast, the purchase scheme, considered as a method of paying for the use of library books, offers no accuracy. It would force 300 lending volumes to remain available for future loan, and 14m reference volumes to remain available for future consultation, without any payment to their authors. In the case where it does pay, it would make the same payment on a volume that was never lent or consulted throughout its library life as on a volume lent 400 times. The claim, reported elsewhere in your pages, that "there is no inaccuracy in a purchase-based right" is utterly untrue in the context of payment for the use of books. Yours truly, ANTONIA FRASER, Chairman, Society of Authors, 84 Droyden Gardens, London, SW10. MAUREEN DUFFY, Vice-Chairman, Writers' Guild of Great Britain, 430 Edgware Road, London, W2. BRIGID BROPHY, Writers Action Group, 3/185 Old Brompton Road, London, W8S, December 12.

From Mr Derek Parker
Sir, In your leading article of December 12 you doubt the justice of P.L.R. and compare the lending of books with the hire of motor cars, etc., stating that once a car has been bought by its hire firm, no further payment for its use is made to the manufacturer. The comparison is false and the argument an ancient red herring. The short answer is that a book is not a chattel, as a motor car is, but a piece of intellectual property protected by the law of copyright. In other words, when you buy a book, you cannot under the law convert it into a film or play, read instalments over the radio, or reproduce substantial extracts, without permission and without making additional payments. In this way you are recommending the author for the use of his creation. The lending of books by public libraries constitutes yet another use of intellectual property, no different in principle from the other uses already mentioned; and this is what public lending right is all about. Yours faithfully, DEREK PARKER, 37 Campden Hill Towers, W11, December 13.

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Wood

Grouping for strength in Europe

Mr Mason, the Secretary of State for Defence, has wholly the passion for designing the policies and commitments both as a member of the House of Commons (see the *Joy Brewery* tie) and as a Minister. The latest addition to his list of hobbies is the design of a Department of defence, which must now presumably be as outlandish as the brigade of least for rarity if not social desirability. Against the backdrop of a flowing fall of red silk, the emblems of the three services minutely worked in gold. Surely there could be no hour for its introduction to the Treasury bench this afternoon, when in a defence Mr Mason will be in a crossfire of criticism from Labour backbenchers who will not for cutting expenditure and by the Opposition in Mr Heath's amendment (for so savagely that he imperils his security). Mr Mason may have second thoughts and his *Barnesley Brewery* tie, or backbenchers behind him, consider the Defence Department an act of calculated provocation, and the Opposition would be a cynical frivolity. First, glance at the Shadow's request for an urgent debate before the Christmas recesses ill with their choice of a debate on the rising economic crisis. If the *Watt* thesis for Wednesday be sound, then how may they be too much against defence spending, as a propo-

tion of gross national product, from the present level of 55 per cent to 45 per cent, or £75m at 1974 prices? Mr Mason can scarcely be expected to make such a country's defence policy only be as strong as its economy permits. But he will welcome not only the gift of an easy debating point; he will also welcome the Opposition amendment itself, simply because it means a succession of events that will help him to resist Labour backbench pressure for more and more surgical defence cuts. Every Conservative speech setting out to show that the cuts have gone too far will have a Labour backbencher who will have not gone deep enough. The tactical timing of the defence debate for today is really explained by the need of the Opposition to make its voice heard while the detailed defence cuts may still be shaped. Even if the defence review announcement of the defence review on December 3, the Government made clear that the proposals would be open for discussion within Nato and among European and Commonwealth allies and partners for two months. Then the drafting of the Defence White Paper, for publication early in March, would begin. Already the cuts and their implications have stimulated a heavy traffic in diplomatic pouches. Bonn is worried about the weakening of the northern and southern flanks of Nato, and last week reinforced its view in the Defence Planning Committee of Ministers with particular emphasis on the northern flank. Washington deplores any British cuts at all at a time when the Americans have agreed to increase the combat strength of their forces in western Europe, and they are arguing against British withdrawal from the Mediterranean and the removal of the red ensign East of the Cape. Paris reacts neutrally, and the Commonwealth countries, including Malaysia, knew the cuts in that affect them were inherent in the re-election of the Labour Government.

So far, so good. Washington and Bonn look like winning a small concession. But the most severe military test of the validity of the review is still to come. Between now and the first week of February the pro-

posals will be critically scrutinized by the military committees of the Defence Planning Committee of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Admiral of the Fleet Hill-Norton, who has a formidable reputation for toughness. By the time his appreciation comes to hand all the diplomatic representations will be in, but the military appreciation will be decisive for some of the detail of the review. As the Commons goes into today's debate, a Conservative and a Labour hiccup of logic are worth noting. It is a platitudinous defence of the servant of foreign policy; the defence review has been designed to regroup British ground and air strength to meet any threat to the land mass of western Europe. The central European front line, because Britain's front line, and the Royal Navy will be concentrated in the eastern Atlantic to keep open the route of reinforcement to western Europe from the United States. How strange that such a strategy should be carried out by its logical limit by a Government that purports to have doubts about Britain's integral place in Europe, and should be opposed by the party whose foreign and economic policies through the years have made the logic inescapable.

Of course, the Government's logic is not unflawed, as a Labour backbench member illustrates. Signed by nearly 100 backbenchers, it protests against continuing British involvement east of Suez in Oman. Well, defence ministers are what foreign secretaries and chancellors of the exchequer allow them to be. The defence review is one of those compromises that Mr Callaghan ought to be defending at meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party, much as Diego Garcia is a Foreign Office concession to Washington in lieu of British withdrawal from Singapore. All in all, I hope Mr Mason has the audacity to wear the prototype of the Defence Department today—at any rate until he has had time and leisure to design a tie to celebrate his appointment, with effect from next month, as chairman of the European Group of Defence Ministers: a personal tribute on which he is right to set no small value as his critics hit him hard.

Wealth tax and art dealers
From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association
Sir, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, MP, asked the Minister for the Arts in the House of Commons (December 13) what steps he proposed to take to prevent "the flight of the fine arts market to other countries". If the wealth tax were to be introduced, the market would be driven to other countries. "That market follows freedom. If extra taxes are imposed in the United Kingdom, we shall lose this market." As Mr Hugh Jenkins did not offer any reply, I am sure Mr Stevas's important statement by pointing out that owing to governmental threats of further fiscal oppression on the arts many of our leading auctioneers and dealers are making plans to move the centre of their operations overseas. Yours faithfully, GEORGE J. LEVY, President, British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd, 20 Rutland Gate, SW7. December 15.

Cathedral collapses
From Mr P. Sillsby
Sir, The first leader of December 11 referring to the work of medieval architects and masons stated few engineering mistakes were made and cited the collapse of the nave at Beauvais as a rare example. Unfortunately it is far from rare as a quick look at ecclesiastical buildings in this country alone will show. At Ely, part of the thirteenth-century foundations stand on rock at six feet, but the Norman foundations were only four feet high. At Croxall, built on rubbish and peat while five feet beneath the surface was a sound bed of gravel. At Winchester a part stands on bundles of faggots in water. The results of this negligence were calamitous. At Winchester the tower fell in 1107, at Gloucester another fell in 1170, Worcester 1175, Evesham 1213, at Dunstable two fell in 1221 and another two in 1222 again at Worcester, Lincoln's central tower collapsed in 1240 when the nave was blown down. In 1321 Ely lost its Norman central tower later replaced by the famous Octagon and St Albans in 1323 lost part of its Norman nave. Yours faithfully, P. SILLSBY, 28 Wharton Street, W1. December 12.

Clergy stipends
From the Reverend Michael K. Barling
Sir, Over the past few weeks the tone of the letters on clergy stipends has been one of gloom and despair. The suggestion is that we are all nobly bearing an unjust burden. I would be grateful of the opportunity to say something on the other side of the scales. I am a married Vicar with three children. My stipend is nearly £2,000 a year. To this must be added the vicarage which the Church Commissioners value at £1,000 a year. Even this £3,000 a year is surely an adequate income. We have found it so. My wife does not go out to work. We run a car, have an annual holiday and we will have an excellent Christmas. We also give. I will not finish my day as a wealthy man, but then I never thought would. On the other hand I am not despairing and, in the absence of any rude letters from him, neither is my Bank Manager. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL K. BARLING, The Vicarage, St Andrew's Road, Sidcup, Kent.

Break before university
From Miss F. H. Guillian
Sir, Correspondents who have written to you about the year's break between school and university have referred with regret to VSO's "curtailment of its school-leaver scheme"; I should like to explain the reasons for this and to stress that we are not "concentrating on sending graduates abroad" as Mr T. B. Langston suggested (December 10). Voluntary Service Overseas exists to help Third World development by providing opportunities for people with skills to make a practical and individual contribution to a volunteer basis. It does this by responding to specific requests from overseas governments with whom the initiative lies. To this end we aim to recruit any skill that will help a developing country in its agriculture, its technology, its medical services, its education system, its economic life, in fact in everything that contributes to its social development.

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Transplants:

Unsympathetic public attitudes and legal confusion mean that time is running out for thousands

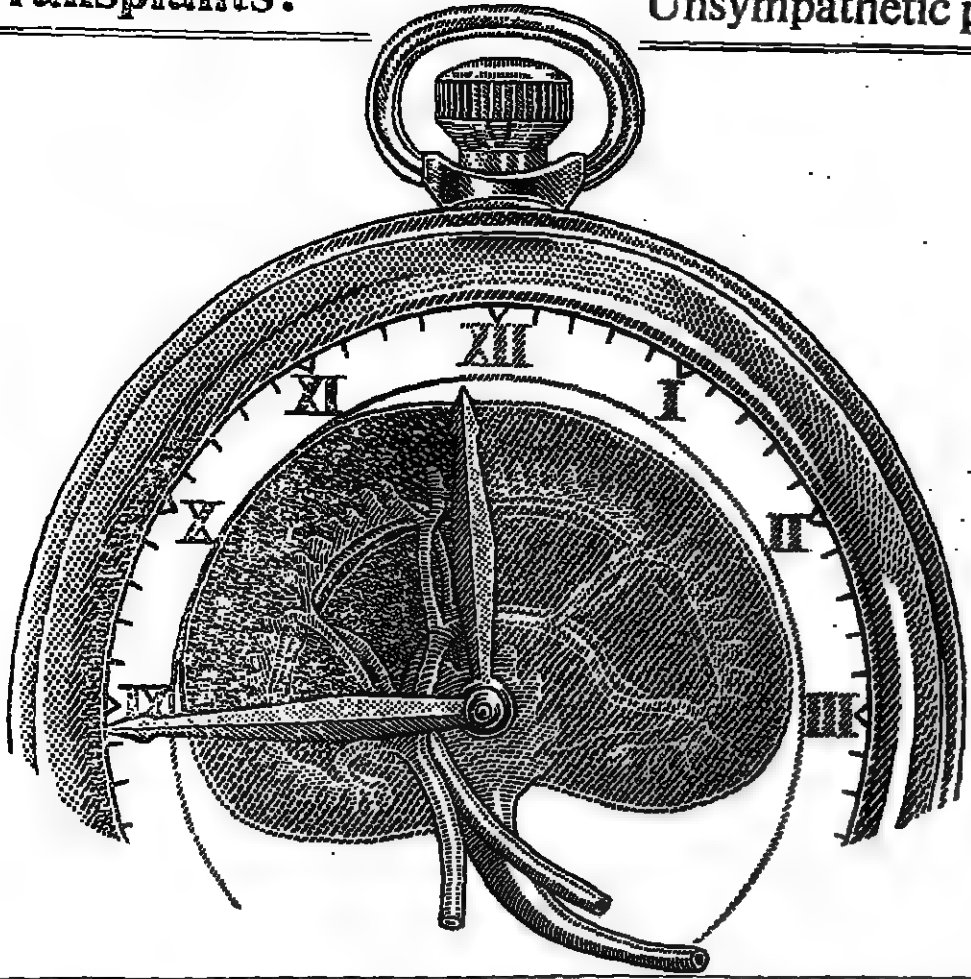


Illustration by Bill Sanderson

Queueing for a chance to live again

No surgeon would willingly use second-rate equipment or materials in his operations, yet British doctors are transplanting kidneys that would be rejected as substandard by their colleagues in Europe and the United States. They do so simply because so few kidneys are offered for transplantation in Britain.

A combination of unsympathetic public attitudes, the confused state of the law, and indifference by doctors has meant that in many hospitals little or no attempt is made to remove kidneys from patients dying after motor accidents or from brain damage. As a result transplant surgeons are just not getting the kidneys they need; and almost daily they face a decision between using a poor quality kidney (and risking the patient's life in so doing) or telling the patient that he will have to go on waiting (and so

lengthening the queue of dying patients needing treatment). Each year another 2,000 persons with kidney disease reach a stage in their illness when death would normally occur within a month or so. Many of them can now be kept alive by three sessions a week of dialysis on an artificial kidney machine, but they have to eat a restricted diet and drink very little fluid—and they never feel really well. In contrast, when a transplant operation has been a success the patient feels fit again, can eat and drink normally, and is no longer dependent on his artificial kidney. Not surprisingly, many patients who have had a year or so of life on an artificial kidney are prepared to take the risk of a transplant.

The risk is very real, despite the fact that (alone of the major organ transplantation procedures) kidney grafting has become a routine treatment in many technically advanced countries. At least 15,000 kidney transplant operations have been done in Europe, North America, and Australasia since the early 1950s, most of them in the past five years. About 7,000 of the patients treated are alive and

well with functioning kidneys; another 3,000 are alive but their transplanted kidneys are not functioning and they are back on dialysis; but the remaining 5,000 are dead.

Despite these risks many patients volunteer for a transplant after months or years of dialysis treatment—and it is not uncommon for a patient to ask for a second transplant if his first kidney functions for only a short period. The quality of life for the patient does seem to be much better with a transplant than on dialysis.

But there is another, more compelling reason for transplantation. With 2,000 fresh patients needing treatment for kidney failure each year the NHS would need to supply nearly that number of new artificial kidneys each year if all patients were to be treated by dialysis. It has neither the money nor the intention to do so. Current policy is that the emphasis should be switched from dialysis, either at home or in hospital, to transplantation. Concentration on transplantation is in some ways a draconian solution but it makes sense. Long-term dialysis is

expensive, demanding large numbers of specialist staff, and the restrictions it imposes on the patient can be demoralising. In contrast, when patients are treated by transplantation the operation is relatively cheap and a straightforward procedure; and if it is a success the patient no longer needs his artificial kidney.

Clearly, then, if most patients with kidney failure are to be treated by transplantation there must be an adequate supply of kidneys of adequate quality. In Britain at present neither is the case. About 500 kidney transplants are done each year, but many more than 500 patients are waiting for a transplant at any one time. This disparity between the numbers of patients needing kidneys and the numbers available has led surgeons to use "doubtful" kidneys, and it is not surprising that many never function properly.

The quality of kidneys determines the chances of success. Thousands of experiments on animals have shown that to have any chance of functioning a kidney must be removed within an hour of death, and the shorter the delay the better. Once removed, the kidney can be cooled and stored in ice while arrangements are made for the operation, but the vital factor is the warm ischaemia time—the minutes that pass with the kidney still inside the body at body temperature but with no blood flowing through it.

In many countries leading surgeons are not prepared to use kidneys removed after death—some delay is inevitable and every minute inside the old body damages the organ. Instead they rely on the two sources of "living" organs. First, relatives may volunteer or be persuaded to volunteer to give up a kidney.

The results obtained are distinctly better than when kidneys removed after death are used. One year after operation the chance that a kidney taken from a brother or sister will be functioning normally is 85 per cent or more, but for a kidney taken from a dead body the figure is nearer 70 per cent. Only one British centre, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, makes regular use of kidneys taken from patients' relatives.

The second way in which "living" kidneys can be obtained is for them to be removed from the body while the heart is still beating. In several parts of the world laws

have been passed allowing death to be certified when brain function ceases. The Californian state legislature, for example, has agreed that "a person may be pronounced dead if, based on usual and customary standards of medical practice, it is determined that the person has suffered an irreversible cessation of brain function."

However, recent developments suggest that better results may soon be possible from the use of cadaver kidneys. After their removal from the body kidneys may be kept in good condition by passing a cooling fluid through their blood vessels. Research has now shown that chemical tests can be done on the kidney while it is being perfused in this way and that these tests give an accurate prediction of the chance that it will function properly after transplantation.

A recurrent complaint from patients and the public is that doctors never consult them about difficult problems of this kind. Kidney transplantation is one example where the medical profession would welcome help. No one wants to see patients, many of them young and otherwise fit, dying from kidney failure and its complications. For the foreseeable future kidney transplantation offers such patients their best chance of survival: but enough kidneys will become available only by public pressure leading to changes in attitudes. There are two possibilities.

First, much more use could be made of kidneys taken from relatives. Few surgeons would welcome such a trend. Medically speaking, the younger the volunteer donor the better—brothers and sisters are preferable to parents. Surgeons believe that it may be difficult to avoid some sort of moral blackmail developing within a family, especially if only one or perhaps two of the patient's relatives are suitable as donors.

Much preferable, then, would be a big increase in the numbers of cadaver kidneys made available from patients dying in hospital. That would allow surgeons to use only the first-class kidneys and to discard those that seemed doubtful when tested on the perfusion apparatus. Changes in public attitudes to transplantation will help, but another factor is the current confused state of the law.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

Why doctors refuse to operate

Much of the law on organ transplants is contained in the Human Tissue Act, 1961. But that Act was passed when kidney transplant techniques were still in their infancy. The first successful operation in Britain using a kidney from a dead donor was not to be performed until 1963.

The Act was passed mainly with corneal grafting in mind, and followed closely a 1952 Act on that subject. The medical and ethical factors involved, however, are very different in the two cases. The result has been that, as far as kidney transplants are concerned, both the law and the medical ethics are in a state of confusion.

This has led directly to a grievous insufficiency of kidneys available for transplant, and to those that do become available too often being of not sufficiently high standard.

Section 1(1) of the Human Tissue Act provides for cases where a person has made known his wish to have part of his body made available for transplant or research. This wish has to be made either in writing (at any time during his life) or, if made orally, must be in the presence of at least two witnesses during the person's last illness. Where such a wish has been expressed the section goes on to allow "the person lawfully in possession of his body after his death" to remove the part of the body needed.

The Department of Health and Social Security has issued kidney donor cards on two occasions, the more recent being only last month to make it easier for the wish to be expressed in writing.

But all this may be in law, irrelevant because of difficulty over the interpretation of the words "lawfully in possession of his body". If in law the phrase refers to the authorities of the hospital in which the potential donor died, there is no problem and the kidney can be taken out immediately after death.

The alternative view is that lawful possession of the body is vested in the executors of the deceased. This would mean that after the death of the potential

donor the hospital authorities would first have to seek permission of those executors before being able to remove the kidney. This would give executors the right to override even the stated wishes of the deceased and would also mean that because of the time which might have to be taken in seeking permission the operation could not be performed at all.

This restrictive interpretation is held by the influential Medical Defence Union and by at least some past ministers and officials of the Department of Health and Social Security. Sir Keith Joseph when Secretary of State said in Parliament that the kidney donor cards, even in their new form including the signature of a next of kin, did not authorize a surgeon to proceed with taking a kidney out of the dead body without further inquiry. Many hospitals and surgeons because of the unsatisfactory state of this part of the law are now not performing urgently needed transplants.

In practice, however, the most desirable kidneys are those which can be taken from young people who die in hospital after an accident. The vast majority will not be carrying kidney donor cards. The procedure specified by the Human Tissue Act when the potential donor has expressed no known wish is therefore crucial. But here as well there is uncertainty in the law.

The Act provides that "the person lawfully in possession of the body" can authorize the removal of an organ if "having made such reasonable inquiry as may be practicable" he has no reason to believe that the deceased had expressed an objection to having his body used in that way, or that "the surviving spouse or any surviving relative" of the deceased objected.

The first problem is the same as that where the deceased has signed a kidney donor card: whether the hospital authorities are the people lawfully in possession of the body. But even if this is answered affirmatively the difficulty arises in the definition of "reasonable inquiry as may be practicable".

Where corneal grafting is concerned the difficulty is considerably less, because the cornea need not be removed from the dead body for some hours and adequate inquiries can be made. But a kidney, to be of sufficiently high quality for a transplant, has to be taken out of the body within a maxi-

mum of one hour after death. Many doctors in fact believe that even an hour's delay reduces the efficiency of the kidney and that to have maximum confidence removal should take place immediately on death (however that is defined).

It can be argued that in these circumstances "such reasonable inquiry as is practicable" can and should mean very little inquiry. In other words, unless the wife or parent is immediately available to be asked (and this in itself can raise psychological difficulties) nothing more can be required from the hospital authorities or surgeon.

That is not the end of it however. Who counts as a surviving relative under the Act? If one relative has not objected need others be asked as well? If a potential donor's wife agrees, can his mother object?

Questions like these show up another unsatisfactory aspect of the Act. It would not be difficult to specify a limited range of relatives, to place them into some order of priority, and to provide that only one relative need be contacted. A similar recommendation was made by the Bar Council in a memorandum on organ transplants in 1971, which has been completely ignored.

Bringing an end to confusion on these aspects of the law would greatly help hospitals by enabling them to carry out more transplants efficiently. But it might not be enough. Ultimately two further steps may have to be taken.

The first is an "opting out" scheme, under which everyone would be assumed to consent to their kidneys being taken out on death, unless they had specifically made known their objections in some way during their lifetime. The second reform, which has already taken place in some countries, is to provide a legal definition of death which would be based on irreversible brain damage, even though the heart may still be beating. This would allow kidneys to be removed at their peak of freshness.

Public opinion is not yet judged ready for either move. Eventually, however, these changes might be the only way of ensuring that good quality kidneys are available for transplant. Put another way these changes will mean that thousands of people with kidney disease who are now doomed to die could be given a very real chance of living a full life.

Marcel Berlins



Now that you know your Scotch, taste what came before.

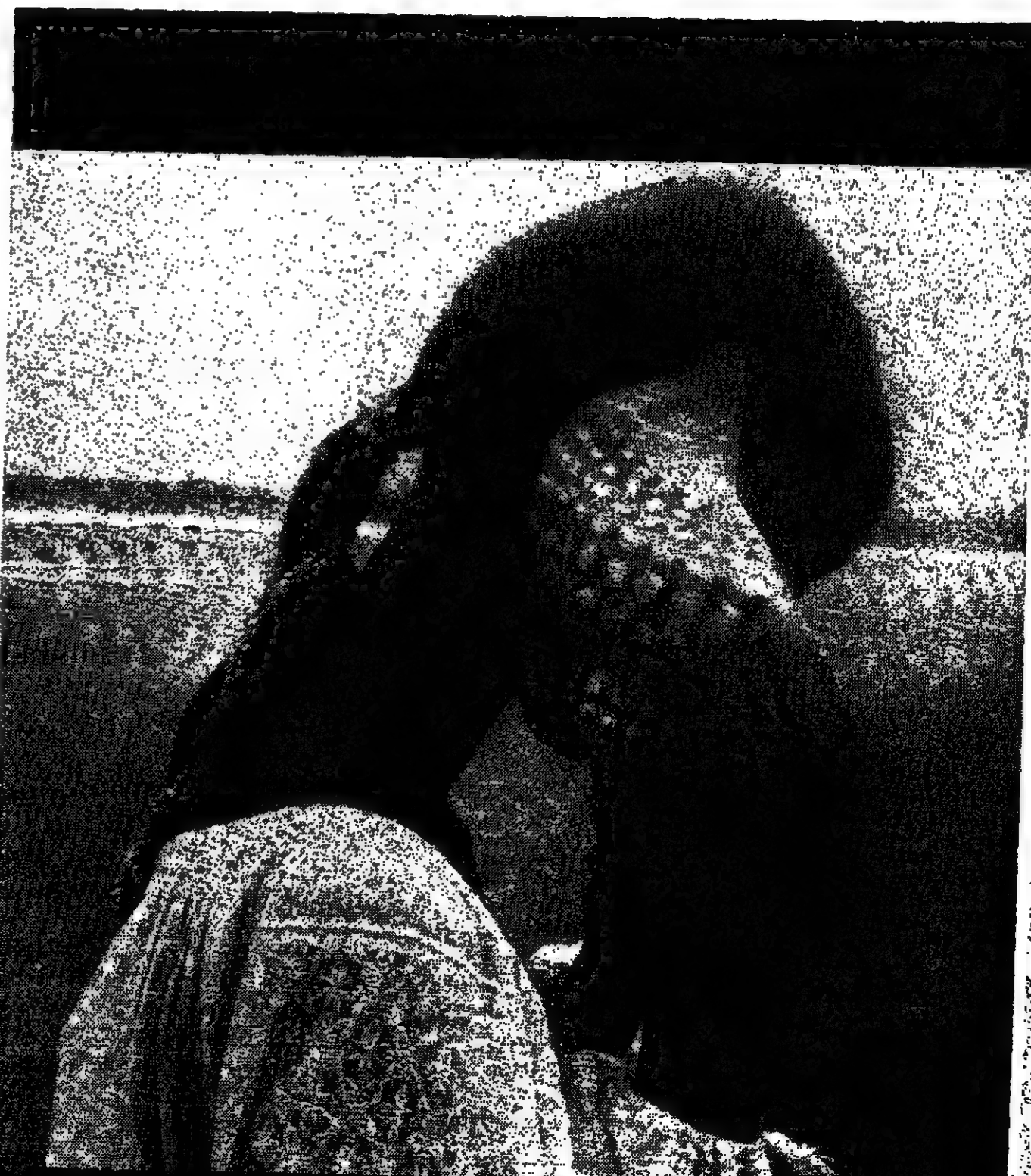
When you drink Scotch today, you're probably enjoying a blend of twenty to thirty different sorts of Scotch whiskies. However, for many centuries before the art of blending was developed, the original whisky of Scotland was pure malt, first recorded in the Scottish Exchequer Rolls of 1494. Glenfiddich Pure Malt has an

aroma and taste very different from the blend to which you are probably accustomed. But the smoothness and mellowness of Glenfiddich is difficult to describe—it can best be experienced.

We could tell you at length about our family distillery at Glenfiddich, the hand-beaten copper pot stills and the pure

Highland water. But for now, let us merely say that William Grant & Sons make Glenfiddich today as we have done for four generations in the traditional way. The result is a pure malt whisky matured for at least eight years—a delight to drink. Why not try a dram with a friend? It could be a great step backwards for you.

Glenfiddich Pure Malt Whisky.



Un parfum aux secrètes splendeurs...



"Farouche"
Le nouveau parfum
de NINA RICCI

سكننا من الأصل

SAVILLS
PROPERTY INVESTMENT

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

هكذا من الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

مركز الأصل

Hugh Stephenson

Motor component sector after Leyland aid

anything short of disaster is at the ratings of most shares in the motor components sector now discounting: many of them are selling at less than their book value, and several offer yields of over 20 per cent. Yet recent results from the sector—Associated Engineering, Jones Woodhead—have merely been better than expected, they have been positively good. So has the gloom doom been overdone, and do investors take advantage?

The recent survey of the industry put out by Capel went to some pains to emphasize, discretion is still a part of value. There are companies in this sector with a relatively small content of original equipment sales, extensive and fast-growing as turnover, and with recovery prospects given the decline of the industrial sector to which the British industry has in recent years been painfully prone: this is the fact that British suppliers have this experienced very little of downturn in car component of which other manufacturers are complaining. But a balance sheet, of the type which Lucas, or BBA, may claim, is worth any recovery prospects. It is said, it has to be accepted that the situation has been worsened by the Government's decision to support Leyland to a degree has not so far been recognized in the component manufacturers' ratings. For although the market for original equipment is generally admitted to be now, and all the manufacturers agree that it will be next year—most are for a decline of 5 to 10 per cent in new registrations.

United Kingdom licensed dealers in shares, is more than just an extension of The Stock Exchange. In some ways it looks more like a hybrid of the secondary market system in this country and the more institutionalized forms of equity ownership and corporate control in Europe.

So it is hardly surprising, perhaps, that the sort of smaller listed companies I referred to last week that have become disenchanted with the Stock Exchange, to the extent of considering going "unpublic" again, should be showing interest in the OTC market. Some of them apparently are looking around for an institutional partner to buy back in the public market.

Shares generally go into "firm hands" when a company goes to the OTC market. They are usually bought either by long-term private investors, or by financial institutions such as insurance companies or pension funds that back the existing management as a matter of policy. A concrete example of this was when a quoted industrial conglomerate made a bid for Henry Sykes, an OTC company. Existing institutional shareholders and a merchant bank were persuaded to make a higher bid in support of the existing management and to ward off possible asset stripping. The conglomerate succeeded and since then (1972) Sykes's pre-tax profits have risen from £308,000 to just short of £1m.

As the OTC market is a "negotiated" market, as opposed to a "continuous" market, the problem of blocks of shares being accumulated in unfriendly hands is greatly reduced, though obviously this applies only while the number of OTC shareholders remains limited. With Nightingale's portfolio of OTC companies this ranges from just five shareholders in the case of Armitage & Rhodes to around 400 in the case of The Armistage. Essentially the philosophy is to take institutional or private shareholders to take a three-to-five-year view on their holding and to get to know the company and management in the meantime. This may stop short of the kind of active participation of actually putting representatives on the boards of companies they invest in, but it is a relatively active interest by normal British shareholder standards.

OTC companies are encouraged to adopt a conservative line on dividend distributions and correspondingly generous one on profit ploughback. This is reflected in yields ranging between 2 per cent for Twinkl and 8 per cent for Armitage & Rhodes, based on OTC prices. These prices incidentally are often very much a matter of what the buyer will offer or the seller will take as typically



Mr. Ladislav O. Rice, joint chairman and managing director of the Burton Group, keeping spending under control.

no book is made, the licensed dealer acting as agent, not as principal.

On the other hand, the OTC investor can come out with a substantial capital gain if he is prepared to take a minimum three-year view. Twinkl, for example, is presently standing at around 40p or twice the OTC issue price three years ago. As yet, no OTC company has made a profit, but gyrations have not been 100 per cent successful as Twinkl has come off from around 60p since the top of the bull market but prices and p/e ratios do seem generally less volatile on the OTC market.

An OTC listing usually costs about one tenth of the £100,000 or so needed for a full offer for sale and yet the initial markup in the value of a company on the OTC market has ranged from 10 to 200 per cent. This is a mixed blessing from the estate duty angle but that has been weighed against bringing fresh capital into the business on advantageous terms. Right issues are possible as are paper acquisitions, as Twinkl demonstrated, and dilution of control to homeopathic proportions is avoided. The future may well see an extension of an OTC market here, both by corporate demand and institutional initiative.

Burton Group Weighing up the future

There was a time when trading was not so hot that one could at least point to a retailing group's property assets and the shares could continue to demand a good rating. Today one can perhaps say the same thing but in a rather different sense. Burton Group may well only be capitalized at just over £11m against a net worth—largely in properties—of some 10 times that figure, but without the backing of these properties the market value would undoubtedly be appreciably lower. For without that kind of backing, there would have been no property profits last year, the group would have finished in the red, and, to be blunt, there would in many people's minds have been a considerable question mark over the future.

Instead, Burton has been able to use its assets strength to generate the finance needed to reorganize its periphery—to rationalize the Peter Robinson operations and to complete the up-market redevelopment of its French business. Both moves appear to have been achieved successfully and to be bearing fruit. But that is not the only reason why the Burton management is leaving a sigh of relief at the moment. The sales trends in the traditional food stores operations have been far more encouraging in recent months, both in absolute terms and in terms of market share.

Not, of course, that the market is going to believe just like that that Burton has turned the corner. And Burton, by its own admission, is all too aware of the red-hot competition from the Marks & Spencers and C & A of this world, who do, of course, compete not only on price, but also through their greater ability to draw the customer into the store.

For the market, then, the view must be that there is still a testing time ahead—how safe in fact is a yield of 22 1/2 per cent with the "A" at 31p and that there could be a fall in price if investors interested at around the present level. The successful predator, however, would need either the blessing of the family or the endorsement of the "A" shares.

The latter still looks some way from the fact that the group is dependent on the Burton family losing faith in both the management and capitalism.

Final 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £11.4m
Sales £127m (£114m)
Pre-tax profits £33.5m (£28.2m)
Earnings per share 7.42p (11.84p)
Dividend gross 6.59p (6.3p)

For students of Whitehall and of the Prime Minister the placing of Sir Don Ryder, as putative head of the National Enterprise Board, in the Cabinet office (and not in Mr Benn's Department of Industry) was intended to create a counterweight within the system.

Rather as Mr Harold Lever has a special place in financial matters closer to the centre of political decision than the Treasury, so Sir Don would have the advantages of an inside track in matters of industrial policy.

Though neither a politician nor a civil servant, he will soon discover the need for political and managerial skills of the highest order, if he is to use his position to effect. For Mr Benn has all the resources of a major department at his command. And civil servants of the department who disagree with the Benn policies will resist out of institutional loyalty attempts by an interloper from Downing Street to shape events.

At the same time, however, how producing the plans for the National Enterprise Board, Mr Benn is steadily getting on with the practice. Indeed, in certain respects he is preempting decisions which the Government has not formally made and which may need legislation.

In most ways the interventionist activities of Mr Benn are a straight development of the policies of the last government, executed by Mr Peter Walker and Mr Christopher Chatway through the industrial development executive, using the huge powers of the Industry Act. Indeed, the fact that Mr Benn has been able to operate actively during the whole of this year on the powers of that Conservative Industry Act is not without interest.

There are fundamental areas of coincidence between the approaches and attitudes towards industrial policy of Mr Benn and Mr Walker. They talk the same language and dream the same visions.

But, in two areas, Mr Benn is fast putting his personal stamp on how things happen. The first is that the

dominant purpose of intervention is increasingly to preserve existing jobs for their own sakes. Mr Benn seems to be personally committed to a crusade to remove the scourge of redundancies from the face of the land.

This means that the thrust of the Industry Act is somewhat diverted from a primary concern with industrial development or restructuring, and the creation of modern capacity, into altogether less radical channels.

As the recession gathers pace this aspect of the work is likely to grow. The Treasury will presumably wish to limit the total to be spent in this particular form of outdoor relief. At present there seems to be some rule of thumb for the amount of money that may be spent to save a job, though the informal ceiling was well and truly breached in the case of Court Line.

Secondly, Mr Benn seems to have decided to proceed as if the Companies Act had already been amended to give workers the same (or even greater)

rights in the companies for which they work as shareholders. Questions one, when an industrial situation now comes to the Department of Industry, is whether the workers have been consulted and what they want.

Mr Benn has had certain difficulties, arising from the fact that the answer was different, depending on which group of workers you asked. One suspects that Mr Benn considers this sort of direct democracy more appropriate to our condition than playing with two-tier boards or worker directors.

But, while there is wide agreement that the Companies Act needs changing to give employees a position in law analogous to that of shareholders, the fact is that the law has not yet been changed. Officials, receivers and others currently being dragged along in Mr Benn's wake may well unsmilingly feel that they lack the full coverage of the law as it stands.

It is this home market which has been showing worrying signs of weakness in recent months. Unemployment has risen above 800,000 and is expected to top the million mark this winter.

In some sectors, such as building, where there is a great deal of over-capacity because of a speculative spree a few years ago, during which it seemed that everyone in Germany was going to buy a villa in the countryside or on the seashore, there has been a veritable bloodbath of bankruptcies and sackings.

Not surprisingly, the building industry has been given special

Divided opinions on the prospects for America

The economic news in the United States is getting worse daily—unless you belong to the school of thought arguing that a deep recession is only a way to combat inflation. There is no question but that the United States is experiencing the sharpest economic recession since the Second World War.

Real GNP has fallen in each of the last three quarters of 1974 and the fourth quarter is expected to show a fall of between 6 and 8 per cent (annual rate). Thus, output will have fallen in excess of 4 per cent during this year and there is more to come.

The unemployment rate has already reached 6.5 per cent and even the most optimistic of forecasters expect the level of unemployment to rise to 7 per cent early next year. Some economists feel that unemployment could reach 8 per cent (or just under seven million persons out of work). And while inflation is still an issue in Washington, unemployment both actual and prospective is now the real worry, even if not always admitted.

Point of conflict

The basic point of conflict both within the Administration and among private economists is how much longer and how much deeper the recession will go before it is reversed.

Of the five previous postwar recessions, the average duration was 11 months and the longest 13 months. But activity in the early months of 1974 was badly affected by the oil embargo, and it is only in recent months that a classic business downturn has developed. Given the excessive stimulus to spending from 1971 by the Nixon Administration, through the Federal Reserve's monetary policy in 1972, sooner or later there would have been a correction, but the 1974 correction is being amplified by the problems of oil prices—as witness the fall in college and automobile sales.

However, consumer sentiment is becoming more and more depressed and is going to be very difficult to reverse. Also, they point out that company profits will be adversely affected and could lead to net cuts in capital expenditures.

In this context, the behaviour of the banking system will be very important, as the banks are going through a period of retrenchment. The problems of capital adequacy, growing numbers of non-performing loans, both domestic and international, and the jolts to confidence caused by Franklin National and the well-publicized losses of many international banks, are making banks very conservative in their lending policies.

expects a rapid rebound in activity in the second half of next year, led by a revival in consumer spending. They expect that money incomes will continue growing at about 1974 levels (around 10 per cent) but argue that price increases will moderate, so leading to an increase in real after-tax incomes.

At the same time, the optimists look for a sharp upturn in housing, as interest rates fall and funds flow back to the savings and loan associations, which have been suffering from massive outflows of monies in search of higher yields.

Thus, they argue that 1975 will show a "U" pattern for real output, falling in the first quarter, flat in the second, and then picking up in the third and fourth quarters. The level of unemployment would peak at 7 per cent or slightly more, but then fall back as the economy accelerates.

A growing number of economists are taking the view (along with innumerable businessmen) that not only will the reduction in output last winter not bounce back with any vigour next year.

Instead, the "pessimists" argue that the downward momentum will be hard to correct, especially as they foresee only a relatively modest diminution in the inflation rate, while cuts in consumer durable price increases offset by higher food costs.

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Debt financing

And, just as in the United Kingdom, a great many companies are relying heavily on debt to finance their operations. To increase their borrowings or are not in any position to raise new borrowings and yet cannot raise equity funds. Finally, the pessimists are concerned about the strength of United States dollar against the pound, and the possibility of a slow rise (at best) or falling world output.

Above all, those taking a gloomy view about the future of the United States economy are influenced by the very great uncertainties facing government business and consumers. Even before the quadrupling of oil prices the Western world was suffering from unprecedented rates of inflation, and the oil situation has made the situation that much worse. So it is small wonder that

consumers and businessmen are sitting on their pocket books. As a consequence, rather than forecasting a "U" for 1975, the pessimists envisage more of a "L"-shaped economy with the unemployment rising to 8 per cent before falling in 1976.

What then will happen to monetary and fiscal policy? The Federal Reserve has shifted to a less restrictive monetary policy and interest rates at the short end of the market have fallen four points from their July peaks (longer-term interest rates have fallen much less).

On the other hand, the rate of growth of the money supply remains very sluggish despite efforts of the Fed. Interestingly enough, bank deposits have risen by about 1 per cent (which was reflected in the Euro-dollar market) in the last week of November and the first week of December.

Banks found themselves tight for money and opinion in the market about Fed policy changed temporarily towards the view that the Fed would pause before easing any further. Yet, with the announcement of the November unemployment figures and more bad news, the Federal Reserve responded by lowering the interest rate of Federal funds (the immediate indicator of monetary policy) and cut the discount rate to 7 1/2 per cent from 8 per cent on Friday, December 6.

Earlier mistake

However, while interest rates are now expected to resume their downward trend, views have been revised on how far the fall will go.

Few observers expect the Federal Reserve to repeat the mistake of 1972 and pump money into the economy regardless, for fear of rekindling inflationary pressures if not in 1975 then in 1976 and beyond.

Rates on certificates of deposit are expected to ease gradually from the present levels of 9 1/2 per cent for three month funds, but the degree of reduction is expected to be limited.

Similarly, there is no immediate sign of a shift in fiscal policy, but that can be expected to change as the level of unemployment mounts. Understandably, the administration is concerned about overdoing any stimulus to spending for fear that the economy, once it does start moving upwards, rebounds too rapidly and the problems of inflation are repeated, but starting an inflation rate close to double figures.

Nevertheless, if the pessimists are proved right, then President Ford is likely not only to sanction increases in expenditures proposed by the new, heavily Democratic Congress but can be expected to propose tax cuts, although alongside measures to curb energy needs.

Whatever are the philosophical views of high Administration officials, President Ford has been making it clear that nothing in the face of the worst recession since the 1930s. And already the talk of wage and price controls is being heard again.

Geoffrey Bell

German strategy in opting for reflation

After months of agonizing, West Germany has at last re-laxed its economy. The measures announced last week by the Cabinet are of relatively small impact, but they show that the Bonn Government is now firmly committed to fighting the onset of recession both in Germany itself and, by extension, in the rest of the world.

Taken on top of the extra DM14,000m which will be pumped into the economy during 1975 as a result of an already announced tax reform, with these fresh measures government policy is now clearly trying to ease the country back to expansion.

There is no doubt that Chancellor Schmidt's recent globe-trotting has convinced him of the need for this kind of action, overturning the view which he was putting forward only a few months ago. The Germans now see themselves clearly as one of the two leading industrial and economic powers in the West, with the rights and responsibilities that go with that position.

Unless Germany pursues an expansionist policy, the strain on the deficit countries, most notably the United Kingdom and Italy, would be too great to bear. The trade surplus in Germany topped £770m last month, and after a hiccup in the autumn the Deutsche mark has once again established itself as a strong currency.

Indeed, nothing that the Germans do in the way of revaluing the Deutsche mark seems to make a significant dent on their payments surplus.

Traditionally, parity changes affect the balance of payments of a country by shifting it along what is traditionally known as the J-curve. When a currency is devalued the lower export prices result first of all in a worsening of the payments balance and then, as volume picks up, in an increase in total overseas sales and a drop in imports.

We in Britain seem at times to spend all our life going down the short arm of the J. This results in a further deterioration in the balance of payments, which means that we start the whole process of decline again.

In a similar way, German revaluations often result in an increase in their exports because the sort of products which the country sells overseas, such as capital goods, are not price sensitive.

They are, however, very sensitive to changes in demand, and that is why the Germans have strong self-interest from an economic point of view in making life easier for their trading partners and also in reducing the dependence of their capital goods and other industries on export markets.

Sometimes as much as 25 per cent of Germany's total gross national product is now sold overseas, a sharp increase from the 16 per cent in 1960. Germany can thus not afford to force other countries into a worldwide recession, as it stands to gain from making sure that its companies can switch some of their sales to the home market.

David Blake

PONTIN'S LIMITED

SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCE IN TURNOVER AND PROFITS

The 34th Annual General Meeting was held on 13th December in London. The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Mr F. W. Pontin:

The Accounts show a substantial advance both in turnover and profits. The United Kingdom and the overseas operations both played their part in producing these very satisfactory results during a period of rapid inflation and uncertain economic conditions.

Trading Results—The group profit before taxation amounted to £3,723,574, an increase of 144.5 per cent on the previous financial period. The Group profits included £115,459 commission due to me under my Service Agreement, which I have decided to waive as a gesture in supporting the Government's counter-inflation policy. This increase in profits reflects the effect of continued capital expenditure by your Company on additional accommodation and improved facilities and the increased success of Christmas opening and the additional use of the Company's premises for conferences.

Future Outlook—The past few years have seen a considerable strengthening of your Group both by internal development and by acquisition. The Directors of the Company are confident that the Group is well equipped for this progress to continue, provided always that general economic conditions do not change fundamentally. Preliminary figures for the season which has just ended indicate that the Company has enjoyed another very successful season in the United Kingdom in spite of the escalating costs, much of which cannot be recovered by increased tariff charges due to the Government's present counter-inflation policy. In the light of the general falling-off in demand for holidays abroad this year, the original extended Pontin holiday programme was reduced in April. This together with the early closure of the Holiday Village in Greece following the troubles in Cyprus, and the possible loss of up to £250,000 already paid in respect of flying requirements prior to the collapse of Court Line, will have a limited effect on Group profits for the year ending 31st March 1975.

Activities—The Group operates 33 holiday properties comprised of 13 catering holiday camps and 9 self-catering holiday villages in this country, whilst overseas there are 3 hotels in Torremolinos, Majorca and Sardinia and 8 holiday villages in Jersey, Channel Islands, Majorca, Greece, Morocco and Costa del Sol.

Business Diary in Europe: This happy breed • Musical plates

ish, it seems, are with their lot than one wealthier partners in the Dutch, that, at the finding of a Dutch for Statistics in the survey, Contentment and by, was carried out of last year, just when it was planned to run parallel to the British dance Research Council study on social attitudes.

Dutch report the re the two are compared, outcome is, to say the marke.

groups were asked to a scale of one to 10, tree of satisfaction with aspects of their daily life, including health and the Dutch scored an of 6.9 and the British

easier, their workmates friendlier, felt more secure as they found that more changes to the kind of work they liked.

The only points on which the Dutch had a marginally higher score were working conditions and payment.

The survey also compared the two groups' worries and here again the Dutch showed a higher degree of worry (4.6) than the British (4.0).

There was no single point on which the British worried more than the Dutch, the closest score being on worry about the children. The Dutch worried almost as much about growing old, their jobs and getting into debt and more than twice as much about what the neighbours say.

Asked about the future, the British confidently expected a higher degree of satisfaction in five years' time, the Dutch less.

Conclusions by the Dutch surveyors: the British live for today rather than tomorrow, are day optimistic and prefer not to over-optimistic and prefer not to face the hard facts. Or could it be more you have, the more you fear to lose?

Star gazing

Nearly two years after the enlargement of the EEC, new "Euro" number plates with

nine stars, one for each member state, are available for the civil servants at the Community offices in Brussels.

Since the British, Danes and Irish joined, new arrivals in the European capital have had to make do with Belgian red and white number plates. Older hands from the original member states who were in Brussels before enlargement day have soldiered on with out-of-date blue and white Europlates with six stars.

The tardy arrival of the updated versions is not universally acclaimed. The new design, which like the old carries the letters EUR, is less aesthetically pleasing, because the designers clearly found it difficult to design nine stars evenly round the plate. With six stars it was a simple matter of putting three stars above the letters and three below.

There has also been resentment among Eurocrats with old plates, who have discovered they must buy two new plates at about £3 apiece. By contrast, newcomers who have ordinary Belgian number plates are under no obligation to change them.

There were a number of reasons for the two-year delay, one being that a first batch, produced with 10 stars in the heady days when Norway was

a prospective member, had to be scrapped because of the danger of civil servants at the Community offices in Brussels.

Then the only Belgian factory which produces number plates became involved in a Belgian scheme to produce new black and yellow plates for the whole country. These had to be destroyed too after complaints that they were too Flemish in colouring.

It will take about six months to make the complete change-over from the new to the old Europlates, and it has not escaped the notice of some that this will probably be around the time of the British EEC referendum.

It would be ironic if yet another batch of plates had to be replaced—with eight star versions.

Odell file

Professor Peter Odell, the man who regularly launches bolts of optimism with the object of scuzzing the arguments of the political and industrial pundits who are painting our future so black is not the enfant terrible his opponents make him out to be.

Controversial he is, and will remain so long as he sticks to his guns and insists on preaching, for instance, that the oil

companies are leading us a dance by statistically concealing the extent of their oil and natural gas finds. You can't make that kind of statement and escape the tar brush.

In Holland, where Odell is director of the Economic Geography Institute at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, he is certainly respected by his opponents. His Dutch is fluent and his achievement in itself for an Englishman—but he rarely accepts offers of TV appearances or newspaper interviews.

He confines his publications in the press to the quality dailies, and then only when he is assured of accuracy. What he has to say appears in abundance in Dutch and English language scientific publications and is read by industrialists and fellow academics.

Neither is Odell an academic run wild. His experience with oil reserves is backed up by several years' research as a Shell employee. His predictions in the late 1960s, based mainly on American experience with their oil and gas reserves, that the other world reserves would emerge to be much larger than at first predicted, have been confirmed by the oil companies themselves.

The facts on which he bases his arguments are common property. His conclusions are controversial, but are considered

worth deep study. Those who dismiss him as a wild should take to heart one of the first rules of business warfare—never underestimate your rival.

Rising smoke

General Franco's Government gave Spaniards a reason to give up smoking last week by raising the price of home-produced cigarettes by about a quarter. Even so, the price of Ducados, the most popular brand of traditional Spanish black tobacco, is still only 15 pesetas (11p) a pack of 20.

The new price of Peninsulares the cheapest brand is 4 pesetas (3p), and even the American-style Lolo, the most expensive national brand, now costs only 20 pesetas.

The state tobacco monopoly says it will still lose money on the cheaper brands, but the price increases took into account the income of the smokers of each variety.

For most brands, this was the first price rise in six years. Increasing costs were eroding the profits of the tobacco monopoly, last year put at about £84m.

But if nationally-produced brands are still cheap by British standards, imported cigarettes are expensive. American filter-tipped king sizes cost 55 pesetas and British brands cost even more—if you can find them.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Cawoods at peak but construction outlook is poor

Record interim results seem to augur well for Cawoods Holdings in spite of gloom over the prospects for the building, civil engineering and road works sector. Mr Edward Binks, the chairman, warns that unless there is an early stimulus to the economy, in a way that benefits this sector, a further deterioration in demand for its products is likely.

Meanwhile, taxable profits for the first six months to September 30 are up from £1.3m to £1.75m on turnover of £55.8m, against £38.3m. The dividend is up from 195p to 2.21p gross on net profits of £930,000, against £735,000. This after extraordinary items of £108,000, against £98,000, which include the surplus arising on the redemption of unsecured loan stocks and profits after tax on the sale of goodwill and freehold properties no longer required in the business.

On the outlook for the fuel distribution side, Mr Binks says that if supplies continue to be available, and there is not too mild a winter, the board are looking to a satisfactory second half year's trading. Mr Binks makes no mention of the group's interest in North Sea exploration, but this is one of its big attractions.

At present the group has 15 licensed blocks in the North Sea through its membership of two consortia headed by Ranger Oil and Total Oil Marine. It has had a notable find in the Ninian Field through a 3.75 per cent interest in block 3/8, and certain of its other interests are reckoned to have good prospects.

Cawoods' share of development costs in the Ninian Field are estimated at £9m.

Brownlee is hit by weak demand and margins

Although turnover of Brownlee, the Glasgow-based timber merchant, has increased from £5.5m to £6.3m, interim pre-tax profits have dropped from £795,000 to £573,000 including £48,000 (against £26,000) from associates. Investment income amounts to £5,000 (£6,000).

The board comments that, as forecast, demand and margins were both lower, while overheads continued to rise. While it has been necessary to make some provision for stock losses, the company's stockholdings and forward purchase contracts are at a good level, against current demand. The group is in a position to increase stockholdings if required.

In view of present uncertainties facing industry, no forecast is made. Since the year end, however, the board reports that there has been no further fall in demand, but margins have continued under pressure. Overheads of all sorts continue to rise. Given a clear run, however, the board is not pessimistic about the outlook.

GCI—Scots Tea offer lapses

Although the offer by Grand Central Investment Holdings for Scottish Ceylon Tea has been accepted by holders of 70 per cent of the equity, 90 per cent acceptance was necessary for the bid to succeed. It has therefore lapsed and acceptance, and transfer of share certificates, will be returned within 14 days.

Business Appointments

New deputy chairman named at Seagrams

Mr Roger Lamberth has become deputy chairman and managing director of Seagrams Distillers. Mr John Ashworth becomes director of production and sales services. Mr Leonard Dowden has been made deputy managing director of Integrated Ceiling Services. Mr Alfred Best, general manager, joins the board. Mr P. D. M. Lawless has been made a director of Scott's Restaurants.

Mr Joseph Harrison has become chairman of Midland White Holdings.

Mr D. S. Hay has joined the board of Scottish Agricultural Industries.

Mr William B. Franklin, chairman and chief executive officer of Caterpillar Tractor, will retire on February 1, 1975, after 10 years on the board. He will be succeeded by Mr William L. Nannum, vice-chairman.

Mr Ron Probert will become assistant director of marketing for the British Gas Corporation on January 1.

Mr Bert Guesner Steffens, joint London manager of Dresdner Bank AG, has been elected chairman of the council of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in the United Kingdom.

Mr Leonard Jones, who has been made sales director for Dow Chemical in the United Kingdom.

Mr G. E. Colman has been appointed to the board of Australian Estates and Australian managing director.

Mr T. R. Anagnostou has become a deputy chairman and chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes Australia.

Mr L. D. Eilery, deputy chairman of the health and chemical products group of Cadbury Schweppes, succeeds Mr Anagnostou as chairman of that group.

Mr W. Kirby has joined the board of Hawthorn East.

Mr John Evelyn, chief marketing manager of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Co., has been made chief executive (designate) of the Liverpool Port Authority.

Mr Buck Mickel is joining the Monsanto board. Two new group vice-presidents are Mr Edmund Bauer, head of Monsanto's agricultural chemical operations, and Mr Francis Reese, who has been in charge of the company's international division.

Mr C. Graham Holland has become group financial director of Arthur Lee and Sons.

Mr E. H. B. Davies has been elected president of ITT Africa and the Middle East, a division of ITT Europe.

Mr F. Davies has been made managing director and Mr D. C. Fletcher, technical director of Simon-Yuk.

Mr Richard Powell is to become a director of Russell Garratt and Cornwall Daborn Garratt on his retirement as director-general of the Institute of Directors.

Mr J. E. Black has become a regional director of Forward.

Mr R. D. Dale has been elected president of Overseas Mining Association and Mr D. R. Mitchell has become vice-president.

Mr P. J. Keenan has been elected president and chief executive of the Patino group.

Mr J. N. W. Beardsley is to become chairman of the health and food manufacturing division of Booker McConnell. Mr E. L. Wharad, Mr E. J. Cornish and Mr J. E. Rorer are to join the division board.

Mr R. W. Bailey becomes production manager of United Kingdom Provident.

Mr Roy Gibbons becomes managing director of the Radio Receptor Company.

Mr D. M. Fowler has been appointed a director of Johnson Group Cleaners.

Dr J. M. Morgan has been appointed managing director of Sterling-Whitford Group's continental division.

Mr P. F. Robinson joins the board of Hunt and Winterbottom.

Dr D. A. Rolles has been appointed director of the Tia Research Institute.

Mr C. Galliford has been appointed chairman of British Building & Engineering Appliances.

Mr J. K. Wilson has joined the board of Executive Dynamics.

Ellis Wright has been appointed managing director of Rowallan Creamery.

Mr Barry Ryworth Morgan joins the board of Beck & Politzer.

Profits fall slows at Bristol Evening Post

The second half of last year showed a fall as the Bristol Evening Post in taxable profits and although this trend is followed in the first half of 1974-75, the fall is not as steep. On sales up from £5m to £5.4m, taxable profits are down from £900,000 to £846,000—a dip of 6 per cent, against 22 per cent for the second half last year.

Looking ahead, the board predicts a decline in net profits for the second half, but is not hazy as a guess as how steep it will be.

Mr Suggett under fire on Cordova affairs

In order to answer shareholders' expressed concern over aspects of the affairs of Cordova Land, Mr Kenneth Suggett, chairman, is to be asked among other things to hold the next annual meeting in London. Most of its shareholders live in the United Kingdom, but Cordova's meeting is usually held in South America. The request to members comes from Crest International Group (Mr Suggett is also chairman of Crest International Group and Crest Ashbourne Investments).

Among the questions are what advantages have been gained by transferring Cordova's management to Switzerland, why have its profits fallen and no dividends paid, the true present worth of its assets, and light on the controlling shareholders, owning over 90 per cent, registered in nominee names.

'Lois' to stay course after fine opening

Reflecting the continuance of shipping buoyancy conditions in shipping, London & Overseas Freighters reports interim results to September 30 showing an "attributable" profit on the way to being doubled from £2.93m to £5.05m. Shipwrecking much more than doubled from £1.51m to £3.2m, while shipbuilding moved from £1.35m to £1.49m. Investment income also rose—from £241,000 to £780,000.

On the rest of the year, the recently depressed state of tank freight rates will cut earnings, but full-time results should match the preceding full year's £8.2m pre-tax.

Associated Tooling

A jump in interim turnover from £610,000 to £1m is partly attributable to the purchase of Tring Engineering by Associated Tooling Industries. Tring contributed five months' trading but has only now

become profitable, so group profits show only a small advance from £102,000 to £148,000.

The second half should be similar to the first, pointing to a new group record, against last year's £219,000. This is provided that no setback arises from present economic difficulties.

Net dividends are ahead from 0.87p to 0.96p, while the gross is up from 1.25p to 1.44p.

Inflation the key factor at Pontin's

Pontin's, the holiday group, has raised its 1975 prices by about 17 per cent, but "it remains to be seen" whether this will be enough to beat inflation, Mr Frederick Pontin, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting.

Undoubtedly the company would have the customers, but whether it could maintain the profit growth it had become used to over the past 10 years would depend on inflation, said Mr Pontin. The 1974 season, ended a few weeks ago, had been a most successful year in the English holiday camps.

But the Pontin holiday side had been affected by the collapse of Court Line (which it was confirmed had cost the company £140,000) and the oil crisis which had led to cutbacks in flights. The troubled situation in Greece had led to a loss there. Profit last time rose from £3.25m to £3.72m pre-tax.

Cope Allman trims its expenditure

Although Cope Allman International has planned to spend between £3m and £10m on capital equipment in the past year, this proved impossible. This year, Mr L. Manson, the chairman, says that the empha-



Mr L. J. Manson, chairman of Cope Allman International, weighing the impossibilities.

sis is being placed on cash conservation, and so expenditure on a number of projects will again have to be postponed. These include the new factory for Bell Fruit Manufacturing.

However, in the next three years, about £26m will be pumped into capital expenditure, of which £5m will be spent this year.

So far, this year, sales and profits are higher.

Hunslet labour worry

Engineering group Hunslet (Holdings) is having serious difficulty in recruiting certain categories of skilled labour and some components are in short supply. It fears that unless there

Ladbroke's holiday boom

The home holiday industry will boom in 1975 and it will do so at the expense of overseas holidays, Mr Robert Updell, chairman of Ladbroke Holidays, told travel writers.

Explaining the reasons for his optimism, Mr Updell said: "In the late sixties and early seventies, the British holiday industry undoubtedly suffered in the wake of cut-price package holidays. But we have seen more recently that the significant gains made by the package tour operators have been short-

lived and their pricing policies short-sighted.

"Now package tour prices have had to be increased to be viable, which means that the home holiday companies are better placed than they have been for many years."

In 1974 Ladbroke Holidays sold 350,000 individual holidays—a 10 per cent increase on the previous year. Looking for a target of 420,000 holidaymakers in 1975, the company is launching a major television and press advertising campaign.

Diversification will aid Messina

While Commander Grenfell will be more forthcoming at the Messina (Transvaal) Development annual meeting next month on both the copper market and the company's prospects, already one can assume that the recent diversifications play a greater part than hitherto in the group's future.

The Concorde leasing side has now received 30m rand (about £19m) of loan facilities from Sanlam spread over the next 10 years. The Datsun activities, which saw profits drop last year from 3.42m rand to 2.28m rand, are largely to component shortages, have had an injection of 10m rand of medium-term financing for capital development.

But inevitably one must look back to the reminder that last year's results were exceptional.

Mining

where the increase in pre-tax profits from 21.5m rand to 39.7m rand was almost entirely due to the enhanced copper price. The support lies in the historic three times cover for the dividend and the improved liquidity.

No surprises from Grootvlei, Marievale

Grootvlei and Marievale, both in the Union Corporation group, finish the December dividend season with few surprises. The more marginal Grootvlei has

paid a final of 15c which compares with 17c in June and 13c last December, raising the total for the year from 20c, excluding a 5c capital repayment, to 32c. Marievale was a little ahead of market expectations with its final of 50c (45c) increasing 1974 total payout from 60c to 84c, excluding a 10c capital repayment each time.

Japan out of Ok Tedi

Six Japanese copper smelters have decided to withdraw from negotiations on their taking part in further development of Kanak copper prospect at Ok Tedi in Papua, New Guinea. This is the result of the present severe oversupply and stock positions in Japan.

Andrew Wilson

By John Woodland

Commodities

Sugar: 'Astonishing situation in Paris'

An astonishing situation has arisen in the Paris sugar market which has led to a very basic commodity trading in that city, C. Czarnikow says in its latest Sugar Review.

As a result of the recent falls in prices in the Paris market, a trader holding a major position was understood to be unable to meet his margin obligation. Instead of ending, however, to see how the necessary cash could be raised, the market authorities applied for and received authorization from the French Minister of Trade to close the market.

At this stage, the review says, the trader concerned claimed that, as the market had been closed, all positions should be liquidated under a market regulation intended to apply to cases of force majeure. This would call for settlement at the average of the prices prevailing in the 20 days up to the closure.

As values had been falling rapidly this would effectively mean that settlement prices would be fixed at levels well in excess of those ruling on the day on which the failure occurred, much to the benefit of the house concerned and at the expense of other traders.

Although, Czarnikow says, this must be contrary to all ideas of equity, this view has been upheld by the president of the Paris commercial tribunal.

It cannot be believed that the last word has been said and it is to be hoped that commercial reality will eventually prevail, but, the review says, it may be that irreparable damage has been done to the Paris market.

Traders use terminal exchanges in order to eliminate the risks involved in trading for distant delivery. If it now develops that by utilizing the facilities of the Paris market they only add to their risks it is hardly likely that prudent traders will again venture outside the other sugar trade centres.

Meanwhile, the formal reopening of the International White Sugar Futures Market in Paris is unlikely to take place before tomorrow, a senior com-

modity market official told Reuters. The clearing house is deciding to renege on its offer to the market to voluntarily declared open by the Commodity Broker's Association, he said.

From Tokyo it is reported that Australia has offered to sell sugar to Japan at about £235 a long ton under a long term sales arrangement. This reduces the discrepancy with the Japanese price idea to £7 or £8 from the previous £20 when Australia offered £247 a ton and the Japanese stuck to £227.

A basic agreement has been reached on a 5-year pact to supply 100,000 tons annually starting next year, but falling world prices (on November 21 the London daily price was £650 while on Friday it was £440 a ton) have caused the talks to be temporarily bogged down.

From Washington, Frank Volz, United States Economic Correspondent, reports that at a conference on the 1975 prospects for agriculture Mr Leslie Hurt said that the world sugar situation in 1975 is likely to be much more stable than in 1974.

Mr Hurt, a senior official with the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, said that prices are likely to be high next year but greater market stability will be seen as importing countries will not feel the need to buy as aggressively as they did in 1974 because higher prices will lead to expanded acreage and less consumption.

Aluminium demand in Japan falls sharply

Japan's demand for primary aluminium is likely to drop over 350,000 tonnes this year to 1.3m tonnes, Mr Ichiro Nakayama, the chairman of the Japan Light Metal Association, said last week. The industry, he said, would have to bear hardship for some time while reducing heavy stocks which are estimated at 200,000 tonnes.

Currently Japanese refineries are curtailing operations by about 20 per cent to tide over the protracted slump in the

domestic market. Mr Nakayama said the industry is now studying a plan to build a stockpile to absorb present surpluses and release them when supply becomes tight. However, he forecast that this tightness might not happen until early 1976.

Last year there was a 13 per cent increase in world trade in wrought and unwrought aluminium, according to a new survey published by the World Bureau of Metal Statistics. Total volume of unwrought and semi-manufactures entering into trade was 4,452,500 tonnes or 516,000 tonnes more than in 1972. The volume of trade in semi alone rose by 17 per cent, reaching 1,306,800 tonnes.

West Germany, the survey reveals, became the world's leading exporter of semi wrought aluminium from first place with 211,500 tonnes or 16 per cent of total trade. A massive increase of 38 per cent in exports boosted the United States into second place with 207,800 tonnes, while third place went to Belgium with 184,500 tonnes.

West Germany was also the major importing nation with 157,600 tonnes or 12 per cent of total trade.

Total exports by Western countries to the Eastern block were 25,500 tonnes.

The bureau has also published a World Flow Table of Unwrought Aluminium which traces it from production—both primary and secondary—through the full pattern of world trade to consumption.

Canada remained the world's principal exporter in 1973 with 638,500 tonnes or 22.2 per cent of the total, followed by Norway with 576,100 tonnes or 18.3 per cent. The next largest was the United States with 211,100 tonnes.

Japan was the major importing nation with 483,000 tonnes or 15.3 per cent of total trade followed by America.

The survey and the flow table can be obtained from the World Bureau at 6, Bathurst Street, London, W2 2SD priced at £60 and £12 respectively.

Results of British Leyland on Wednesday

In the boardroom statements lined up for this pre-holiday week pride of place has to go to British Leyland's final—due on Wednesday. Other leaders reporting include British Oxygen, English Property, Rotmans and Unigate-TODAY, Finals.—British C Auction, Cranleigh Group, Cranleigh Trust at Martin the Newsgate Interiors: Atcock Oil, Bra Leila, May & Hassell, Sh Carpets, and Siebe Corus TOMORROW, Finals.—B: geridge Brick, British O: gen, Grenall Whitley a J. & H. B. Jackson. Interim Cooper Industries, Imper Continental Gas, Marl Montague Meyer, W. E. N ton, Rothmans International Trafalgar Carpets a Wheelers Restaurants. WEDNESDAY, Finals.—Brit Leyland Motor, Charterho Group, and Westland / craft, Interiors: Associa Dairies, Beyer Peaco British Titan, Celestion Br ings, Fodens, Metrop Industries, A. Monk, Frem Cons Offields and West Evans.

THURSDAY, Finals.—A Stone, and Stenbo Interiors: S. & W. Beris British Besoul Carboid Customs Group, English Perry Corp, Graft Diamo H. P. Bulmer, Travis Arnold, Trustees Corp, I gate, and Vaux Brewery FRIDAY, Finals.—D. F. B (Holdings), and North Food Interiors: Adda in national, E. R. F. Holdi Matthew Hall, Noia (Jen Kait, Phoenix Timber Troydale.

Jackal pay-off to come in next year

The Jackal still stalks cinemas bringing in bumper profits for the producers' film. But final reckoning and benefits—another year.

British & American Holdings (itself returns small profit) excludes the from the wholly-owned subsidiaries, mainly revenue the film Day of the Jack For the record, the taries made a profit £488,000, for the first compared with a loss £533,000 previously.

However, although substantial receipts will from the Jackal in a second half, a greater part the production costs will been written off, and a loss resulting in a com statement for the full year.

net margins is now intense and that spending could be sharply in the New Year if sure on the pound increase brings credit curbs. The in Chaplin's opinion is worth. But the firm agrees the market in buying share House of Fraser—but not a expectation of a bid for United States stakeholder the group's expertise.

The share price of Bas Home Stores has out-performed the sector, Chaplin points and, on the view that half profits growth will be sharply reduced, the share market no more a "bold" for the short Denbams and Burton as seen as "holds".

Chaplin will upset the b Marks & Spencer, however its recommendation the shares be sold, because premium over the rest sector is too high. For it Chaplin expects a profit of pre-tax from Marks & Spencer. Meanwhile, gloomy forecasts are not hard to Kemp-Gee warns of a "of bearish news" and it ment that there is no at the market. Sir Shorne out by events. Sir Coates warns that gifts more than a "trading m and fears uncomfortable opments between now Christmas. In equities, stresses the importance of ing for sound yields, rather high ones.

Terry B

Brokers' views

The search for "defensive areas" in the stock market brings a sturdy recommendation of shipping industry shares by Tilney, the London-based stockbroker. The firm suggests that, although world trade may run into trouble in 1975, further bid moves could be the saviour of many share prices. Tilney thinks that share stakes have been built up in Lovell's Shipping, Guardian Smith and possibly, Lyle Shipping.

Among the major liner companies, Tilney particularly likes P & O, whose shares are very depressed and stand at a fraction of asset values. In 1975, profits could reach the 1972/73 level of £34.4m. Like the other major ships, P & O's diversification will help cushion it against the expected downturn in world trade.

Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin retains faith in GEC, whose shares are "a buy" to recommend as a "core" holding in the market's relative disappointment in the interim results. For the full year, Chaplin looks for profits of £160m plus—with implied earnings of 14.1p a share, or 13.5p after dividends of the remaining Convertible Loan stock.

But Chaplin has lowered its projections of profitability in the retail sector over the past month. It fears that pressure on

Briefly

GEORGE EWER Sales £4.3m (54.5m) and pre-tax profit £210,000 (£253,000). Interim dividend stays at 0.5p and total should match previous year's 1.5p.

JEVONS COOPER No interim payment (2p) on taxable profit down from £70,000 to £53,000.

HARDYS & HANSONS Turnover last year (excluding VAT) £5,040,000, giving pre-tax profit £1,070,000. Total dividend up to 7p.

JACKSONS BOURNE END Sales for half year, £1.7m (£1.5m). Taxable profit is £45,000 (£58,000). Dividend held at 1.05p net.

JOHNSON & FIRTH BROWN Company has acquired the share capital of W. B. White & Sons Limited of Colne, Lancashire, for £80,000, satisfied by the issue of 240,000 ordinary.

WESTPOOL INV Sector revenue £128,500 (£102,000) and net asset value 52p (112p) a share.

ALLIED INV Out of all-time sales of £721,000 (£557,000) taxable profit £100,000 (£93,000) after interest £87,000 (£7,000).

CHEMIRING For year to September 1974, group up by £59, £259,000. Earnings 5.3p share. Premises revalued tender 30 resulting in five-increase of £306,000.

GOLDREI FOUCAUD In half to September 28 up from £72,000 to £75,000. Problems of food indus diminishing so difficult forecast, chairman says.

BANK LEUMI (UK) New branch being opened. West End of London on Office in the City is being ing for around yields, rather high ones.

GULF & WESTERN First quarter profits on share (£1.28), on sales of (£522.6m)—AD-J.

DISTILLERS CORP-SEC Sales for quarter to Oct £515.4m (United States, \$481.2m). Pre-tax income, (\$41.3m).

NEW COURT EUROPEAN Group profit, after tax, £135,000 for year to St 30.

LEADERFLUSH (DOORS) Subject to contract and factory accountants' report pany to acquire Sankey U Ltd from January 1.

ANGLIAN FOOD GROUP Company has sold a ethical business to £162, Sons and Jones for £162, a considerable improvement

The Distillers Company Limited

The Distillers Company Limited presents the following unaudited report of Group profit for the half-year ended 30th September, 1974:

	HALF YEAR ENDED 30/9/74 £'000	HALF YEAR ENDED 30/9/73 £'000
Turnover	282,361	240,490
Consolidated Profit		
Trading profit (Note 1)	46,737	40,034
Income from investments (Note 2)	1,442	1,408
	48,179	41,442
Interest paid on loans	4,074	3,805
	44,105	37,635
Taxation (Note 3)	23,400	19,248
	20,705	18,387
Minority shareholders' interests	43	107
	20,662	18,280
Profit of Associated Company		
Profit before taxation £1,311 (£1,478)		
Taxation	£675 (£700)	
	636	776
Profit before extraordinary items	21,298	19,055
Extraordinary items (Note 4)	1,019	2,396
Surplus attributable to The Distillers Company Limited	20,279	16,660

Note 1: Trading profit takes into account the undemoted items:

	1974	1973
Depreciation	£'000	£'000
Exchange loss on Swiss loans	3,743	3,285
Other losses (less gains) on exchange	379	866
	717	(948)

Note 2: Income from investments includes imputed tax credits of £458,000 (1973 £403,000) associated with dividends received from U.K. companies.

Note 3: Taxation is based on U.K. corporation tax at 52% (1973 52%) and includes overseas taxation and the imputed U.K. tax on income from investments.

Note 4: Extraordinary items:

	1974	1973
Expenditure and commitments relating to the settlement of thalidomide claims (£982,000 of the 1974 figure refers to Australia)	1,019	7,347
Annual payments to The Thalidomide Children's Trust	2,230	2,030
Corporation tax applicable thereto	3,245	9,377
	(1,180)	(4,139)
	2,089	5,238
Amount released from provision for annual payments to The Thalidomide Children's Trust	(1,070)	—
Surplus on realisation of investments	—	(2,842)
	1,019	2,396

Interim Dividend

The Board has today declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March, 1975, at the rate of 2.0125 pence per share, absorbing £7,309,000 (last year same), equivalent with the associated tax credit to 3.00373 pence per share (last year 2.8750). The dividend is payable on 28th February, 1975, to shareholders on the Register at 10th January, 1975.

Review of Trading

The period under review was a buoyant one for sales of Scotch whisky and gin and shipments to the United States were particularly large in advance of a threatened dock strike in that country. Consequently the profit derived from the export of Scotch whisky was substantially greater than in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Since September our ability to meet orders received has been somewhat restricted by industrial action both within our own plants and elsewhere. A series of unofficial strikes in support of pay claims closed a number of our plants for some weeks and other disputes curtailed the transport of materials inwards and of cased goods outwards for both the home and export markets. The shortage of bottles and other packaging materials still presents us with problems and has necessitated the importation of such materials at considerably higher delivered prices than apply to domestic products.

All these difficulties have aggravated escalating production costs and thus restricted the benefit which should have been derived from the export price increase made in January this year. Nevertheless a substantially higher profit is expected for the year in respect of our export business. In the home trade profitability for Scotch whisky, gin and carbon dioxide has been severely restricted by pricing problems. Consequently, with greater financing charges, the overall results for the year as a whole are likely to be much in line with those of last year.

Economic Conditions

The Board would normally have sought to raise substantial long term funds about this time in order to finance investment in buildings and plant and in additional stocks of Scotch whisky. With the long term capital market virtually closed, the Company must keep its forward planning within the resources available. It will be necessary therefore to reduce distillation of Scotch whisky in 1975. Hitherto production levels have been designed to cover projected increases in the volume of sales resulting from the continuing expansion in the demand for Scotch whisky together with substantial reserves of stock to meet possible eventualities. A reduction in distillation can therefore be effected whilst maintaining stocks at a level which is entirely adequate to support the forecast increase in demand for our major brands.

12th December, 1974

مكتبة من الأصل

